21 Pasay policemen charged with homicide

STORY ON PAGE A25

Top Rotary awards go to PDI journalists

TWO correspondents of the Philippine Daily Inquirer won major prizes in the Gawad Kalinangan (Culture) category of the Rotary Club of Manila's Journalism Awards this year.

Noralyn Mustafa of the PDI Mindanao Bureau won first prize for her "Sulu: 611 Years of Existence and War," (Sept. 18, 2001), a news feature on Sulu's

TOP/A21

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Budget deficit hits P82B** BUSINESS / B1
- **Eclipse to be seen over RP** NEWS / A4
- **Lakers edge Nets** SPORTS / A22
- **Israeli troops storm Jenin** WORLD / A11

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Friday, June 7, 2002 ★ 78 pages / 7 sections / vol.17 / no. 179 P15
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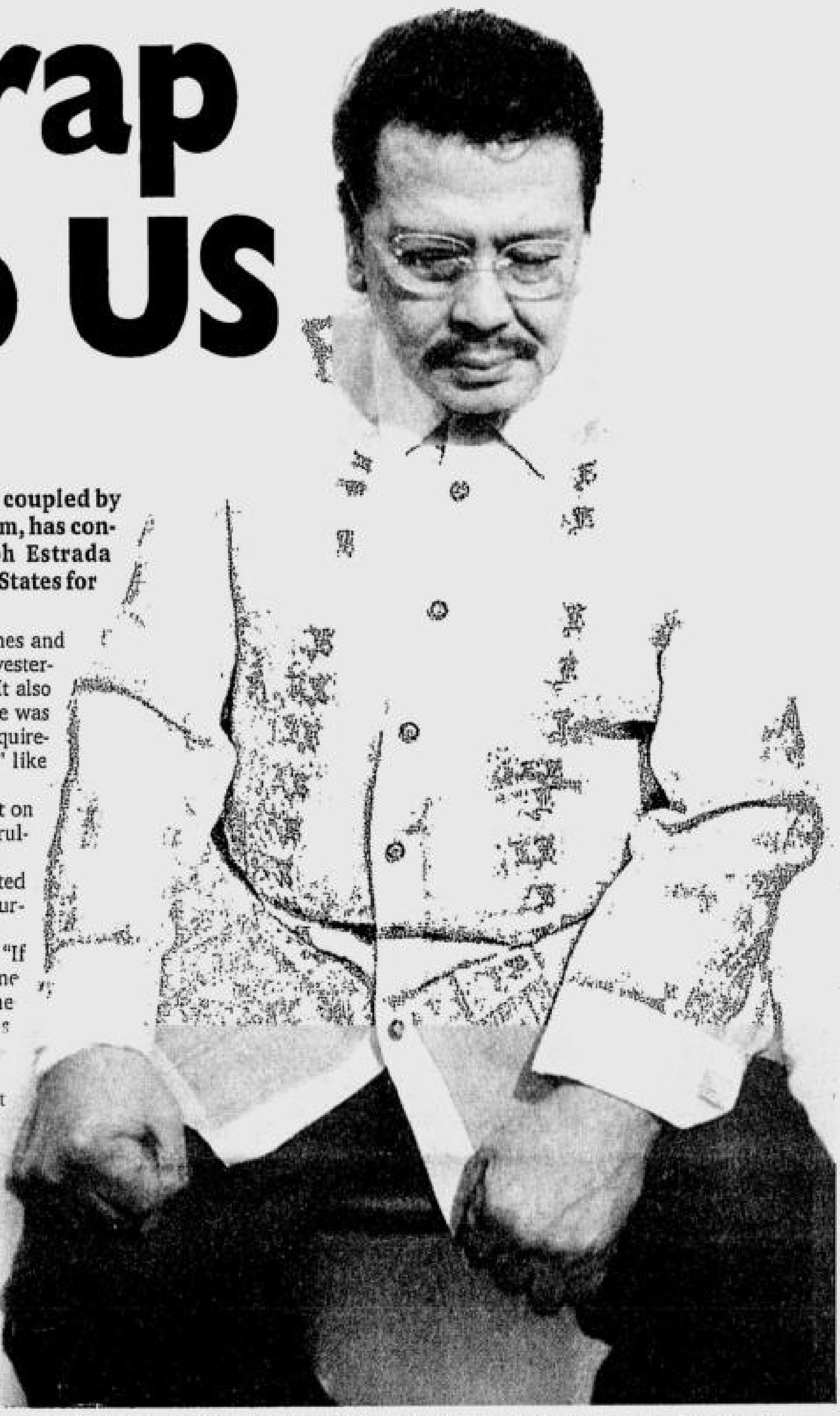
Court bars Erap from going to US



ESTRADA: Because he has lost confidence in the judicial system, the Sandiganbayan doesn't believe he'll return to the country.

DENNIS SABANGAN

By Volt Contreras

THE POSSIBILITY that he might escape, coupled by his constant attacks on the judicial system, has convinced the Sandiganbayan that Joseph Estrada should not be allowed to fly to the United States for knee surgery.

The anti-graft court cited both legal doctrines and the "perceived risk of flight" in its resolution yesterday turning down Estrada's request to travel. It also ruled that a person's right to a doctor of choice was "not absolute" but "must be adjusted to the requirements of equally important public interests" like the effective administration of justice.

The deposed President, who filed the request on Nov. 14 last year, quickly assailed the court ruling as "baseless and grounded on politics."

He said it hardly surprised him, but suggested that he might consider having the planned surgery done in the country.

Still, the suggestion came with a warning. "If ever I agree to have my knee operation done here and something bad happens to me, the blame and responsibility fall directly on this government," Estrada said in a statement prepared by his Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

In a 12-page resolution, the special court hearing Estrada's plunder case maintained that "the legitimate state interest of preserving this court's effectiveness must take precedence over (Estrada's) choice of doctor."

It added: "The perceived risk of flight is not without basis. The records provide ample foundation for the possible disquieting spectacle. As correctly observed by the prosecution, (Estrada) does not recognize our authority to try him and our ability to try him fairly.

"He continues to refuse to have anything to do with his case, dismissing his de parte counsels and ignoring his de officio ones for

COURT/A20

PLDT TAKEOVER

Executives, taipans, solons gang up on Gokongwei

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Doris C. Dumlao

RETAIL tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. faces an uphill battle to wrest control of the country's biggest telecommunications company, with the takeover shaping up to be a "battle of taipans." He also has Congress to contend with.

As if that were not enough, the boards of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Metro Pacific Corp. are likewise stepping up their efforts to block the Gokongwei family from taking over the controlling stakes of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. in the two companies.

First Pacific agreed on Tuesday to relinquish control of PLDT and Metro Pacific's stake in Bonifacio Land Co. to the Gokongweis for $925 million, less than half the price it had paid for them.

First Pacific and the Gokongwei group agreed to set up a joint venture firm to take over First Pacific's 24.47-percent stake in PLDT and 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land. The Gokongweis will own 67 percent of this new company while First Pacific will control 33 percent.

On Wednesday, the PLDT board said it would oppose Gokongwei's plans to take over the company, saying there was a conflict of interest.

The Gokongweis own one of the largest conglomerates in the Philippines, JG Summit Holdings Inc., as well as Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., which directly competes with PLDT.

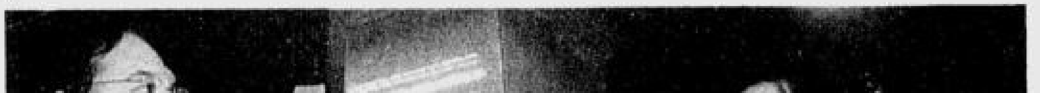
Gokongwei's proposed takeover of PLDT would be "prejudicial and detrimental to the financial interests of PLDT," the board said in a statement.

The board, citing Gokongwei's control of Digitel, said his takeover bid violated PLDT bylaws barring the election to the board of members with interests competing directly with the company.

"PLDT is mandated to protect itself from direct or indirect competing and antagonistic interests," the board said, adding it would not permit due diligence inquiries that Gokongwei

EXECUTIVES/A6

NBI traces Ping's $1-M deposit in US bank



LACSON (right), with opposition Senators Tito Sotto, Gregorio Honasan and Robert Jaworski, says NBI allegations are mere propaganda.

ERIK ARAZAS

By Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza
in Manila
Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson allegedly deposited $1 million (P50 million) in his account with Bank of California in the United States at the height of the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada, an official of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) disclosed yesterday.

The NBI official said Lacson personally withdrew the $1 million from the Equitable PCIBank branch in Greenhills, San Juan sometime in October and November 2000.

For his part, Lacson dismissed the allegation as mere propaganda.

"He had withdrawn the money from this bank and remitted it to his account with

NBI/A20

Divided Senate alarms bishops, businessmen

By Blanche Rivera, Alcuin Papa and Cynthia Balana

BISHOPS and businessmen added their voices yesterday to the growing chorus of dismay over the continuing impasse in the Senate—even as opposition senators made their own declaration of adjournment sine die and two congressmen called for nothing less than the abolition of the upper house.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines warned against the repercussions of a "deeply divided Senate" and asked the senators to act immediately to break the impasse.

CBCP secretary general Msgr. Fernando Coronel, representing the 100-odd bishops in the country, urged senators to "put the country above party interests."

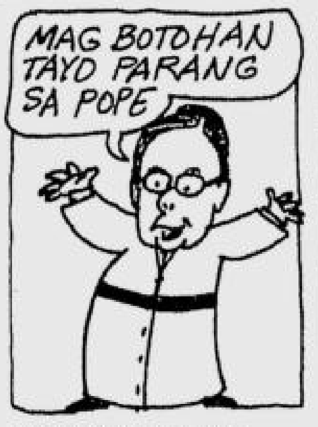
The National Ecumenical Consultative Committee (Neccom), a grouping of Catholic, evangelical and Muslim religious leaders, also wrote President Macapagal-Arroyo a letter of concern, assuring her of their support "in trying times."

The Makati Business Club also urged the lawmakers to end the Senate circus. "We're

DIVIDED/A20

Sonny O: From Judas toz Pope

By Cynthia D. Balana



MAG BOTOHAN TAYO PARANG SA POPE

THE MAN who administration officials think just did a Judas now wants to do a Pope. Sen. John Osmeña yesterday proposed that the turbulent Senate choose its new leaders the way the Roman Catholic Church chooses the successor to St. Peter—by secret ballot.

Osmeña, who joined the administration coalition last July only to rejoin the opposition this week, admitted that the Vatican-like process would be a radical departure from current practice. But he assured his colleagues that this approach would be the best nonpartisan approach to end the impasse in the Senate.

He described his proposal by likening it to a "consistory"

SONNY/A21

US just waiting for RP on logistics pact

Tañada hits lack of transparency in negotiations

By Norman Bordadora
in Manila
and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

BUT for the final word from the Philippine government, the proposed Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement is in the bag, the US Embassy said yesterday.

"It is a mutually beneficial agreement and we are waiting for the Philippine government to decide after careful consideration of the best interest of the country," US Embassy spokesperson Frank Jenista told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Jenista said "both sides are obviously considering the benefits of the agreement" that would allow the US government to put up storage facilities in the Philippines in exchange for military assistance and equipment.

"It will greatly assist in providing fuel for US aircraft and it will facilitate the transfer of (military) materials to the Philippine side," he said.

But Wigberto Tañada, a former senator, insisted that the MLSA was just a guise for the reestablishment of US military bases here.

In a phone interview with PDI Central Luzon, Tañada cited a provision on "support services" in the proposed agreement mentioning "base operation support."

He said that "based on this, the MLSA could pave the way for US bases under another name."

Asked if he was referring to the draft agreement that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said Wednesday was in the works, Tañada said he obtained a copy of the "supposed draft" when foreign affairs sources disclosed to the media the "se-

US/A6

Second FRONT PAGE

MILF kidnaps 'reluctant' pusher's wife

PAGADIAN CITY—Alleged Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas abducted a woman in Zamboanga del Sur after her husband rejected their demand he set up an illegal drugs distribution network, police said here yesterday.

An Agence France Presse report said eight MILF members seized Estrella Catalino, 29, from her home in Labangan town, Zamboanga del Sur, on Wednesday, citing a report from regional police chief Supt. Pedrito Reyes.

The gunmen, reportedly led by MILF Commander Alex Mama, fled by motorboat to Lanao del Norte province, Reyes' report said.

Mama had reportedly asked Catalino's husband, Gregorio, to peddle illegal drugs in the area, the police said.

After abducting the woman, Mama told her husband, "you know where to get her," Reyes quoted Gregorio as saying.

Reyes would not say if the MILF, the main Muslim separatist group, was engaged in the illegal drugs trade. The distribution network might have been Mama's "own personal illegal operation."

The 12,500-strong MILF signed a ceasefire agreement with the government last year and is negotiating a peace accord. As part of the talks, the MILF is barred from sheltering criminal groups operating in its areas.

Despite the ceasefire, sporadic fighting between the MILF and the military has been rife. Military officials had previously charged the MILF with protecting criminal groups engaged in kidnapping for ransom.

In a related development, unidentified armed men seized an employee of a logging company in the southern town of Sibuco on Monday, a military report in Manila said.

The motive for the abduction of equipment operator Edmund Restoni was unclear but the area is known to be a haunt of many armed gangs that engage in kidnapping for ransom.

Yesterday, military officials said government troops would press ahead with their search for the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in Basilan despite reports the gang and its hostages, including American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, had fled to Zamboanga del Norte.

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, Armed Forces spokesperson, said the police reports the bandits had slipped past the military cordon in Basilan and fled to Zamboanga del Norte were unverified.

"This was misleading information intended to keep the military off balance. We're not taking it as the gospel truth until it is verified. We're still verifying this," he said in a phone interview.

Purificacion said Filipino soldiers will continue their search in Basilan for the bandits holding the Burnhams and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap hostage.

"We're still concentrating on Basilan. Our troops will continue to guard the island," he said. The bandits and their hostages were last sighted on the island "two or three weeks ago," he added.

Troops are also scouring Sulu, Lanao del Sur and Zamboanga in search of the bandits, Purificacion said.

The bandits have been holding the Burnhams and Yap hostage for over a year now.

AFP and TJ Burgonio

Asean top cops unite vs terror

POLICE Director General Leandro Mendoza and police chiefs from the other Asean-member countries vowed to intensify the regional fight against terrorism during a recent two-day conference in Cambodia.

In his report to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Mendoza said participants to the 22nd Annual Conference of Asean Chiefs of Police (Aseanapol) agreed to work together to combat terrorism in the region.

The fight against terrorism was placed on the conference agenda upon the initiative of Philippine police officials.

The May 28-30 conference was attended by police chiefs from host Cambodia, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam and the Philippines. Together the countries make up Asean—the Association of South East Asian Nations.

Singapore police officials offered to provide logistical support to train police personnel of Aseanapol members in counter-terrorism capabilities.

The training would cover post-blast investigation, explosives and bomb detection, airport security, passport security, bio-terrorism and intelligence analysis.

TJ Burgonio

Drop in water supply perils power output

THE WATER in Lake Lanao has dropped, hampering operations at the National Power Corp.'s Agus and Pulangui hydroelectric plants in Mindanao.

Napocor president and OIC Roland Quilala said that as a result, the power firm will have to rely on the full operation of at least five independent power producers (IPPs)—diesel-fueled barges—to make up for the two hydro plants' decreased output.

"(To ensure the sustained run) of Agus and Pulangui, we decided to operate them at lower capacities and fully use the IPP plants," Quilala said.

But Quilala said the onset of El Niño has caused the water level in Lake Lanao to dip below the 700-meter mark—the level that guarantees full optimization of the Agus and Pulangui plants.

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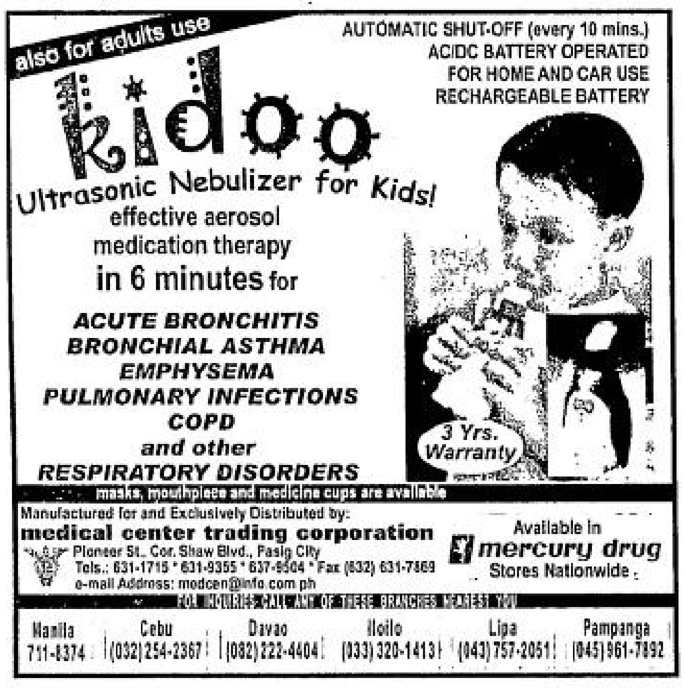
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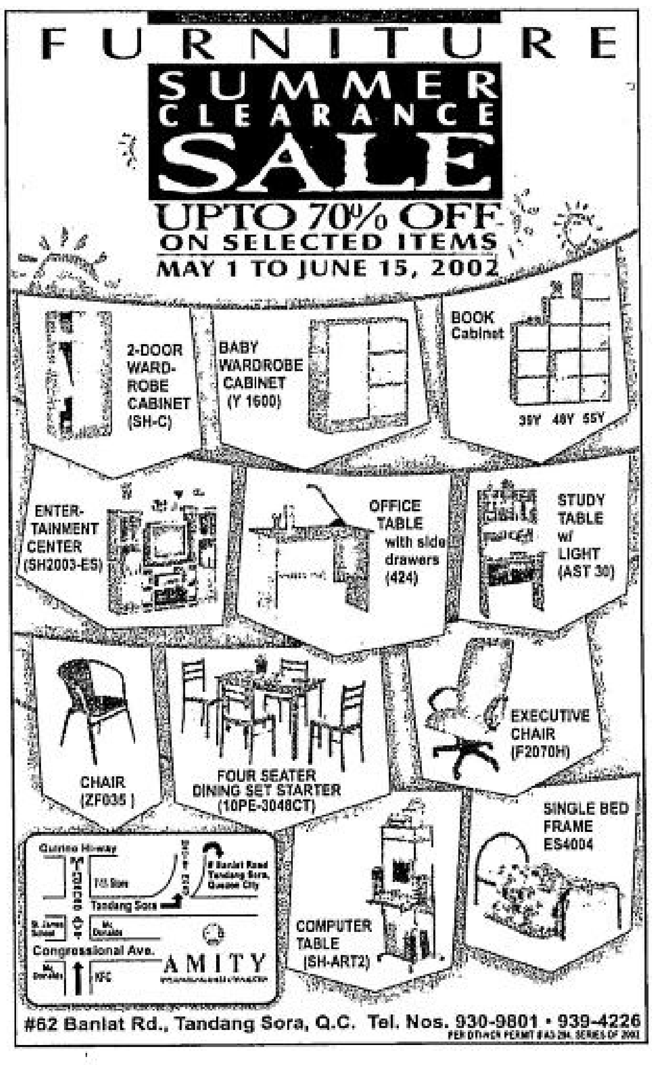
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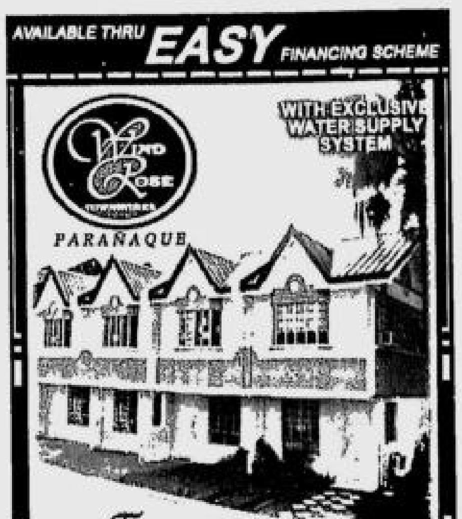

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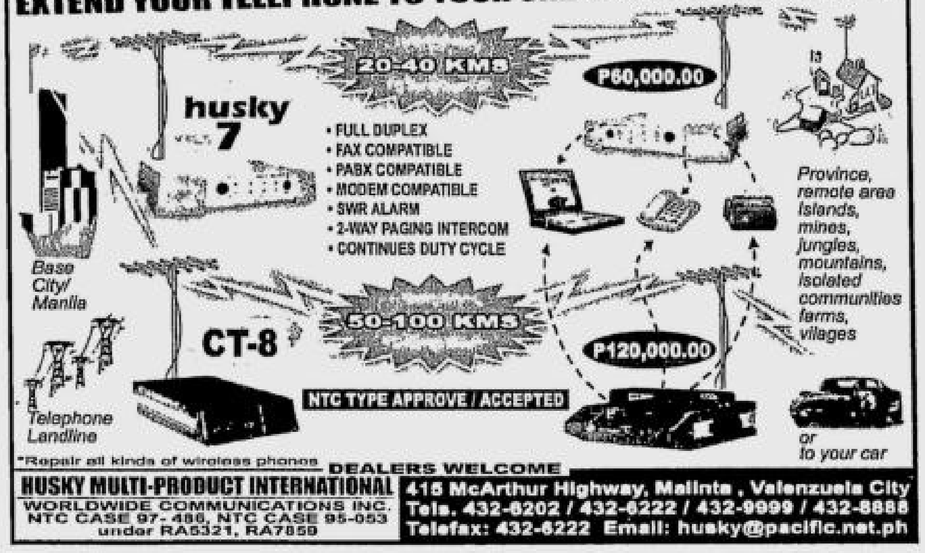
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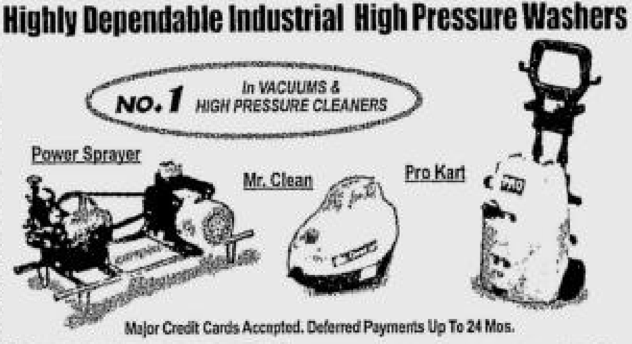

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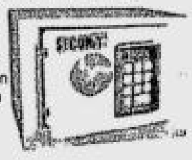

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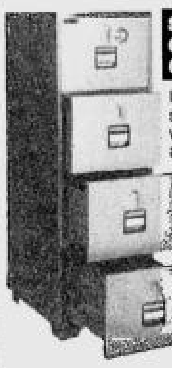

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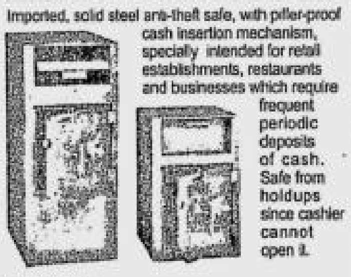

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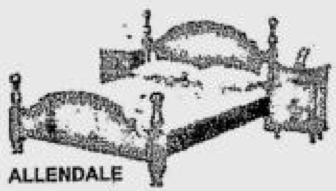
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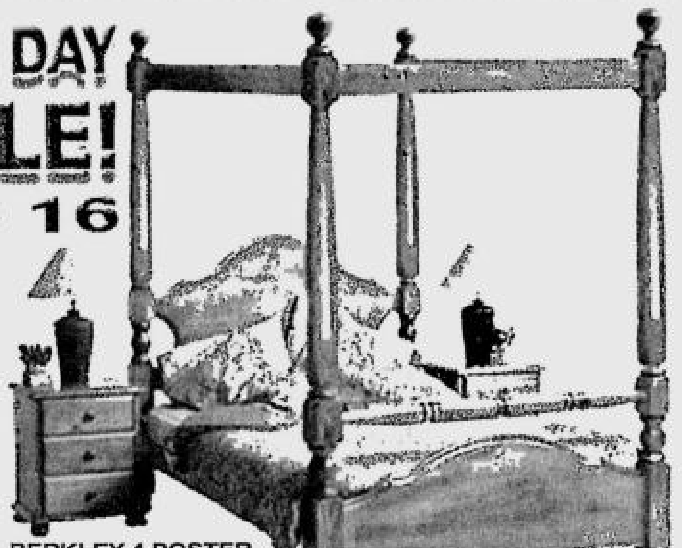
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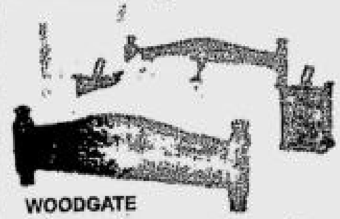
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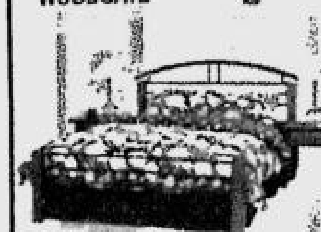
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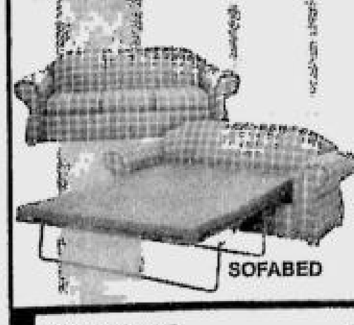
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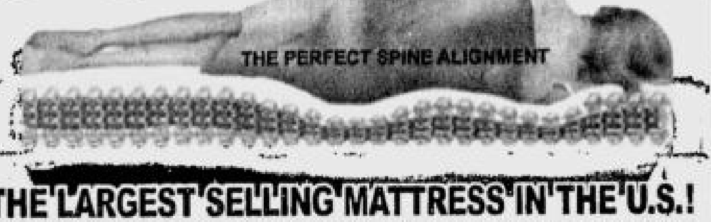

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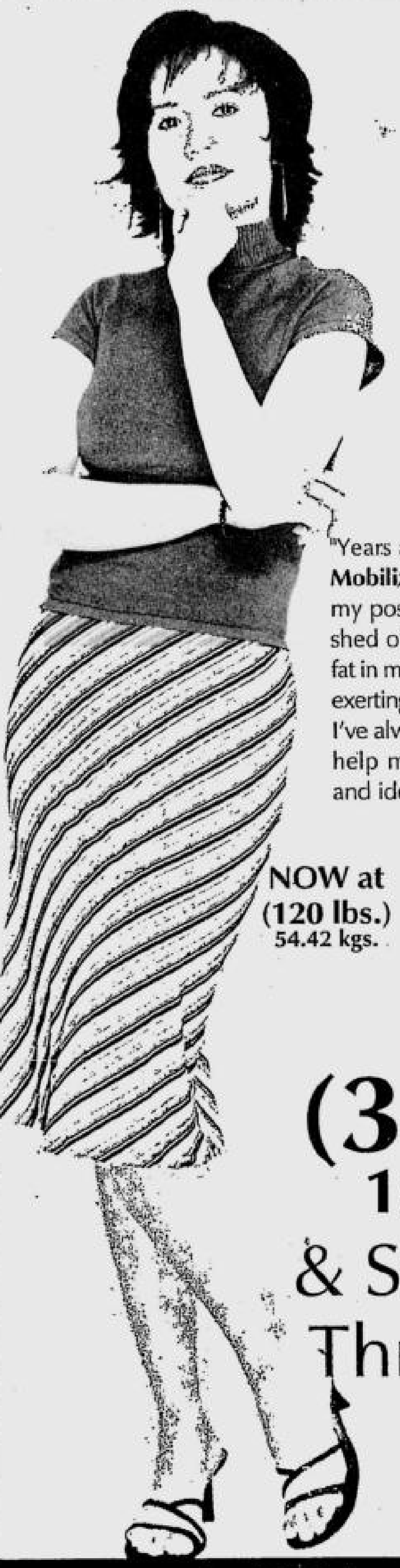

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Eclipse to be seen over RP

A PARTIAL solar eclipse will be seen over the Philippines and across the Pacific on the early morning of June 11.

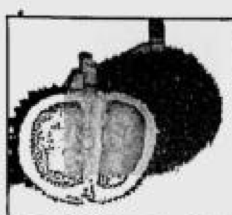
Jose Mendoza IV, Pagasa weather specialist, said the annular eclipse will be visible in the Philippines from 5:29 a.m. to 7:06 a.m.

The eclipse will cover a total of 14,700 kilometers, from the Celebes Sea to the Northern Marianas and the northern tip of Mexico.

Mendoza said when the moon is exactly at the sun's center, it will cover only 66 percent of the sun's diameter, thus only a partial eclipse will occur.

"There will be no total darkness," Mendoza said.

Mendoza advised the public to use solar filters or dark glasses when viewing the eclipse. *Gerald Lacuarta*



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Leave now, Pinoys in Pakistan urged

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs and the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (Owwa) are trying to convince Filipinos in Pakistan to allow themselves to be repatriated in the face of the full-scale armed conflict that threatens to explode between India and Pakistan.

Owwa Administrator Wilhelm Soriano said Consul Jose Cabrera and welfare officer Ferdinand Roxas have been meeting with Filipinos in Islamabad to persuade them to leave for their own safety.

"They are even talking to Filipinos who are married to Pakistanis. They must move to safer ground or come home altogether," Soriano said in a telephone interview.

The two officials have also sought meetings with Filipinos in two other Pakistani cities, Lahore and Karachi, to get them to leave.

A welfare officer will also be going to New Delhi to coordinate with Filipino diplomats there on the repatriation of Filipinos in India, Soriano said.

The Owwa has set aside P100 million to fund the repatriation, which is being overseen by DFA Undersecretary Merlin Magallona, Soriano said.

"We may need to charter a plane or two, most commercial flights having been fully booked," he said.

As this developed, foreign ministers from the European Union and East Asia began gathering in Madrid, Spain on Thursday for a two-day meeting with the India-Pakistan conflict and illegal migration high on their agenda.

India and Pakistan are not part of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which brings together the 15 EU members states, the European Commission and 10 East Asian nations including Japan, China, South Korea and the Asean states.

India had accused Pakistan of fomenting a separatist uprising against its rule.in Kashmir—a charge Islamabad denied—and more than a million troops massed on their common border.

The East Asian members of ASEM are Brunei, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Norman Bordadora, AFP

Borjal writes '30'

LAWYER and journalist Art Borjal, a founder and columnist of The Philippine Star, died yesterday of cancer. He was 64.

A former congressman, Borjal was the principal author of Republic Act 7277, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons.

He was the Star's president in 1988-90 and a member of its board until 1999.

He was also a founder or officer of the following organizations: The Philippine Laryngectomee Foundation Inc., Abilympic Philippines, Pediatric Rehabilitation Foundation Inc., Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled Person, Good Samaritan Foundation for the Disadvantaged Inc., Kidney Foundation of the Philippines, AY Foundation and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

He is survived by his sisters Stella Cerdenia, Febe Cutshaw, Amelia Singson, Linda Belle and Lilia de la Peña.

His remains lie at the Mount Carmel Church in Quezon City.

THE DAILY

Friday, June 7, 2002
Sacred Heart of Jesus

1st Reading:	**Dt 7:6-11**
2nd Reading:	**1 Jn 4:7-16**
Gospel:	**Mt 11:25-30**

On one occasion Jesus said, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I praise you, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to simple people. Yes, Father, this is what pleased you.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

Come to me, all you who work hard and who carry heavy burdens and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart; and you will find rest. For my yoke is good and my burden is light."

Commentary

Every morning we wake up only to go to the same place to do the same work. We feel the weight of our existence. We search for meaning and satisfaction in life, so we turn to the different entertainments the world has to offer: we surf the Net and go online, we play video games, we chat for hours… and yet, still the emptiness in our hearts remains. So we fall asleep and wake up the following morning only to fall into the same dry and boring routine of day to day.

The meaning of life does not lie in this but in the Heart of the Other. When your heart opens up to that Heart, then you will know what life is all about—a life full of meaning to your own heart's content.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY)—*Estafa*—The essential elements of *estafa* (Art. 315, paragraph 2 (d), of the Revised Penal Code, as amended by Rep. Act 4885) are that: (a) a check has been drawn or postdated in payment of an obligation contracted at the time the check is issued; (2) there are no funds sufficient to cover the check; and (3) the payee sustains damage thereby. In order to constitute *estafa* under the statutory provisions, the act of postdating or of issuing a check in payment of an obligation must be the efficient cause of the defraudation; accordingly, it should be either prior to or simultaneous with the act of fraud. In fine, the offender must be able to obtain money or property from the offended party by reason of the issuance, whether postdated or not, of the check. It must be shown that the person to whom the check is delivered would not have parted with his money or property were it not for the issuance of the check by the other party. The decision of the trial court, as well as that of the appellate court, would reveal that the main basis used in convincing petitioner was the fact of his presence at the time of the issuance of the check by his wife. Nothing else was shown nor reflected in the appealed decision that could indicate any overt act on the part of petitioner that would even remotely suggest that he had a hand in dealing with the complainant. Appellant's mere presence at the scene of a crime would not by itself establish conspiracy, absent any evidence that he, by an act of series of acts, participated in the commission of fraud to the damage of the complainant. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Timbal v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 136487, December 14, 2001]

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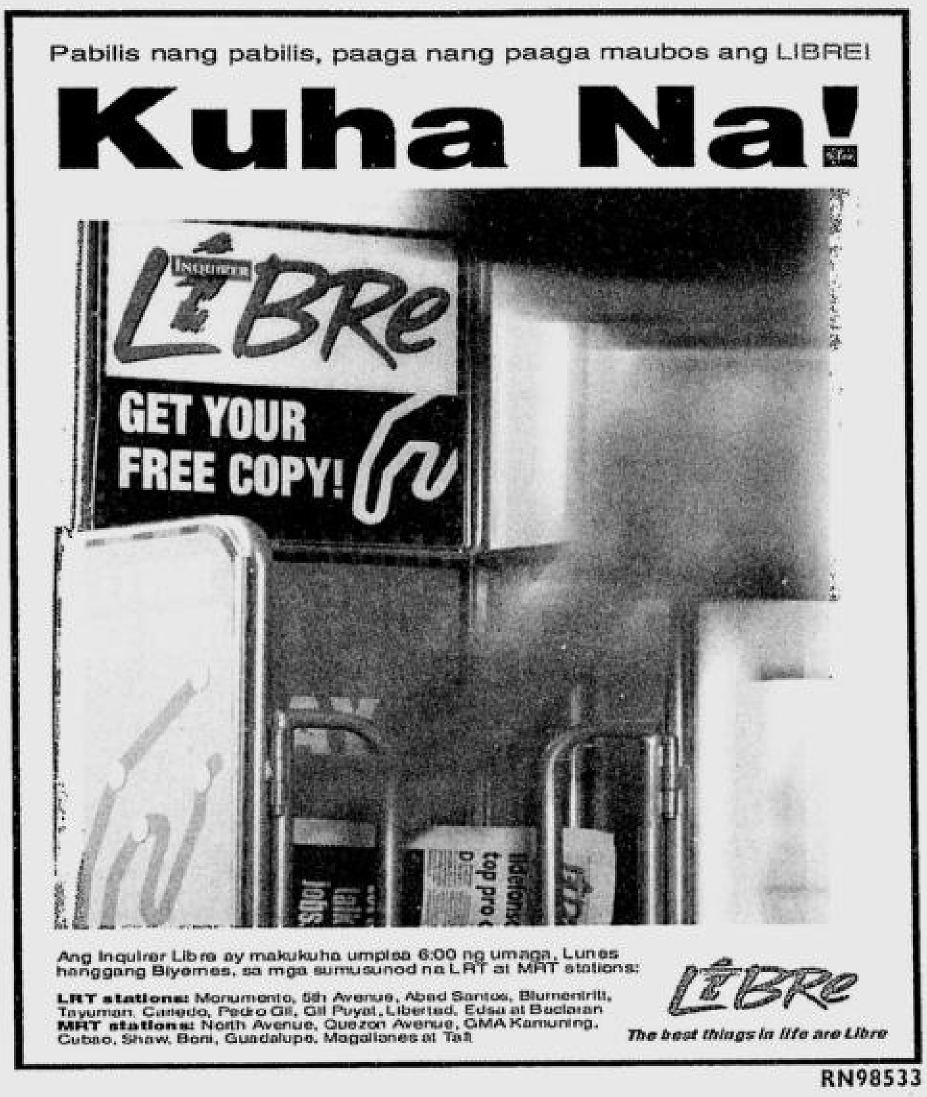

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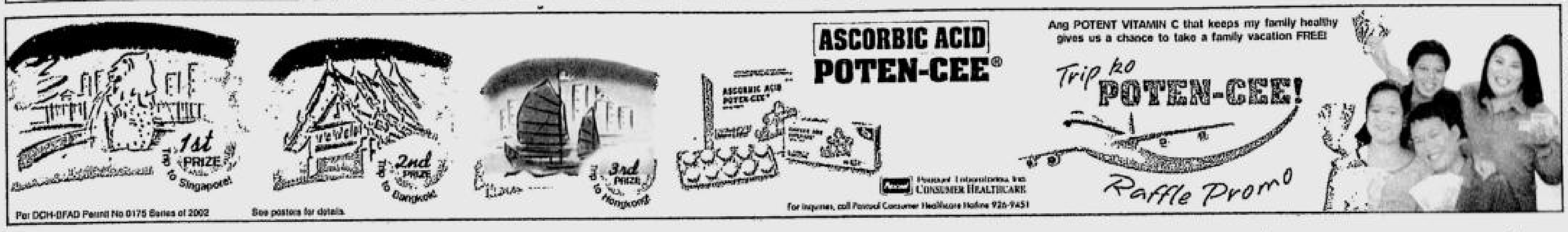

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Executives, taipans, solons gang up on Gokongwei

From page A1

wanted to conduct.

There have been reports that Manuel Pangilinan, chief executive of both PLDT and Metro Pacific as well as chair of First Pacific, has teamed up with PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr. for a buyout.

The two are reportedly preparing a management-aided buyout of First Pacific's stakes in the two firms.

A well-placed source said Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. chair George Ty would back Pangilinan's bid to deflect Gokongwei's takeover of PLDT.

The same source said Ty had agreed to support Pangilinan in tendering a counter-offer, although he was undecided on whether to come in for the acquisition of PLDT or Bonifacio Land or both.

Another source identified with Pangilinan's camp said Ty was among several investors who had expressed interest in helping the Pangilinan and Cojuangco foil Gokongwei's takeover bid.

The source said Ty, whose group has $3 billion in liquid assets, could provide Pangilinan with the financial muscle to match Gokongwei's offer of $925 million.'

Ty's Metrobank is the country's No. 1 bank and largest financial conglomerate.

Other taipans

If Ty threw his hat into the fray, he would join fellow taipans Alfonso Yuchengco and Henry Sy who were also reported to be joining Pangilinan in the latest takeover saga at PLDT.

Yuchengco is a minority shareholder at PLDT and Pangilinan is counting on him, along with Cojuangco, for boardroom support in setting up defenses against Gokongwei's forays.

Sy's SM Prime Holdings Inc. is seen as a formidable rival to Gokongwei's bid to acquire Metro Pacific's stake in Bonifacio Land.

SM Prime confirmed it had held talks with Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. over some of its property assets but had yet to forge any deal.

FBDC, a joint venture between Bonifacio Land Corp and the government-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority, was set up in the 1990's to develop a former military base in Metro Manila.

20 days

Pangilinan's camp has 20 days to submit a counter-offer to Gokongwei's $925-million takeover bid.

Company sources said the PLDT board was tapping local and US law firms to prepare for a legal battle against the Gokongwei group.

"A battery of lawyers from New York has arrived to map out the legal offensive against (the two firms)," said a PLDT insider who asked not to be named.

These lawyers, he said, would work with the Accra law firm.

Anti-monopoly

The Gokongweis are also facing opposition from Congress.

The House committee on transportation and communications yesterday said that it would investigate First Pacific's sale of its controlling stake in PLDT to the Gokongweis.

Rep. Jerome Paras, committee chair, said that the investigation "would determine the pros and cons of having the Gokongweis acquiring a substantial share in PLDT."

"It is not a simple case of buying vinegar from a sari-sari store," Paras said.

"I will convene the committee to look into the takeover, as PLDT is a public utility operator and is, therefore, imbued with public interest and, therefore, Congress should see to it that public welfare is served among all and that the paramount interest of the subscribers is protected."

Two other lawmakers earlier said the Gokongweis' entry into PLDT marked a return to a "pre-liberalization period" in the telecommunications industry.

Rep. Prospero Nograles, a member of the House transportation and communications committee, warned of the deal's supposed "adverse effects."

"We will once again find ourselves facing a monopoly," he said. "The combination of the leading player with the second-largest fixed-line operator will return the country to the pre-liberalization period of the telecommunications industry."

Rep. Aurelio Umali said the sale of a controlling stake in PLDT to the Gokongwei group would "effectively form the largest combined wireless operator in the country."

Done deal

As far as the Gokongwei group is concerned, however, it is a done deal.

"We're not corporate raiders. We're not there to fire people and, in the first place, we're not even going to be in the (PLDT) board yet," a source from the Gokongwei camp said.

The only potential deal breaker, the source said, would be Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, which controls the second-biggest stake in PLDT at 15 percent, if it exercised its right-of-first-refusal and matched Gokongwei's offer.

The source noted, however, that should NTT decide to tender a counter-offer, it would have to contend with a constitutional provision barring foreigners from owning more than 40 percent of a Philippine company.

"To circumvent the 60-40 limit, NTT will have to nominal local investors, and we doubt if the group of Pangilinan can put up that much money," the Gokongwei source said.

"Even if they are able to put up a bid for PLDT, they will have to put up a separate bid for Fort Bonifacio as well. Again, they will be hampered by the 60-40 restriction, and local allies will have to put up more funds," he said.

On the anti-monopoly issue being raised in Congress, he said: "How can there be a monopoly when there's still Globe (Telecommunications Inc.), ETPI (Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc.) and BayanTel (Bayan Telecommunications Holdings Corp.)? That provision is not applicable in this case." ***With reports from Raul C. Dancel, Ronnel W. Domingo, Reuters and AFP***

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US just waiting for RP on logistics pact

From page A1

cret talks" on the MLSA that supposedly started in January.

Tañada said the same provision was also in the proposed Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement that the Senate rejected in 1994.

'Soon'

Jenista declined to comment on Reyes' statement that the draft agreement would "soon" be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Cabinet.

But Tañada said the Macapagal administration should subject the actual draft MLSA not only to a review by Congress but also to public scrutiny.

He said the government should do this because "its credibility has been very much affected, impaired and eroded" by its denials on the Balikatan 02-1 joint military exercise and on the MLSA.

The government has dealt with these issues with "secrecy," he pointed out.

Tañada, one of the senators who voted against the extended stay of the US bases in the country, expressed doubt as to whether the draft MLSA had yet to reach the President.

"They're not being transparent and it's not helpful to the government. I hope it's not a done deal," he said.

On Monday, US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz urged the Philippine government to sign the MLSA to allow the two countries to start new cooperation measures in the campaign against terrorism in the country and in Southeast Asia.

As though on cue, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said Wednesday that while a recommendation had yet to reach the President, "we consider the MLSA important to our strategic relationship with the United States and to our national security."

Concurrence

Tañada stressed that the Senate's concurrence should be sought to ensure that the MLSA would not violate the constitutional ban on forms of US basing.

He said the discussions on the proposed agreement should center on the exact nature and extent of US presence and activities.

Most important, Tañada said, the talks should focus on the implications of the MLSA on Philippine sovereignty and security *vis a vis* a "very, very hostile" environment.

The MLSA must also be viewed in the context of the Philippines' having many Muslim countries as neighbors, he said, and cited the India-Pakistan conflict.

"I hope the Philippines is not being planned again as a springboard for US power projection," Tañada said. "That's going to put us in a very grave danger."

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo aired the suspicion that the President committed to the MLSA as early as her visit to the United States last year, with the then Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, signing it.

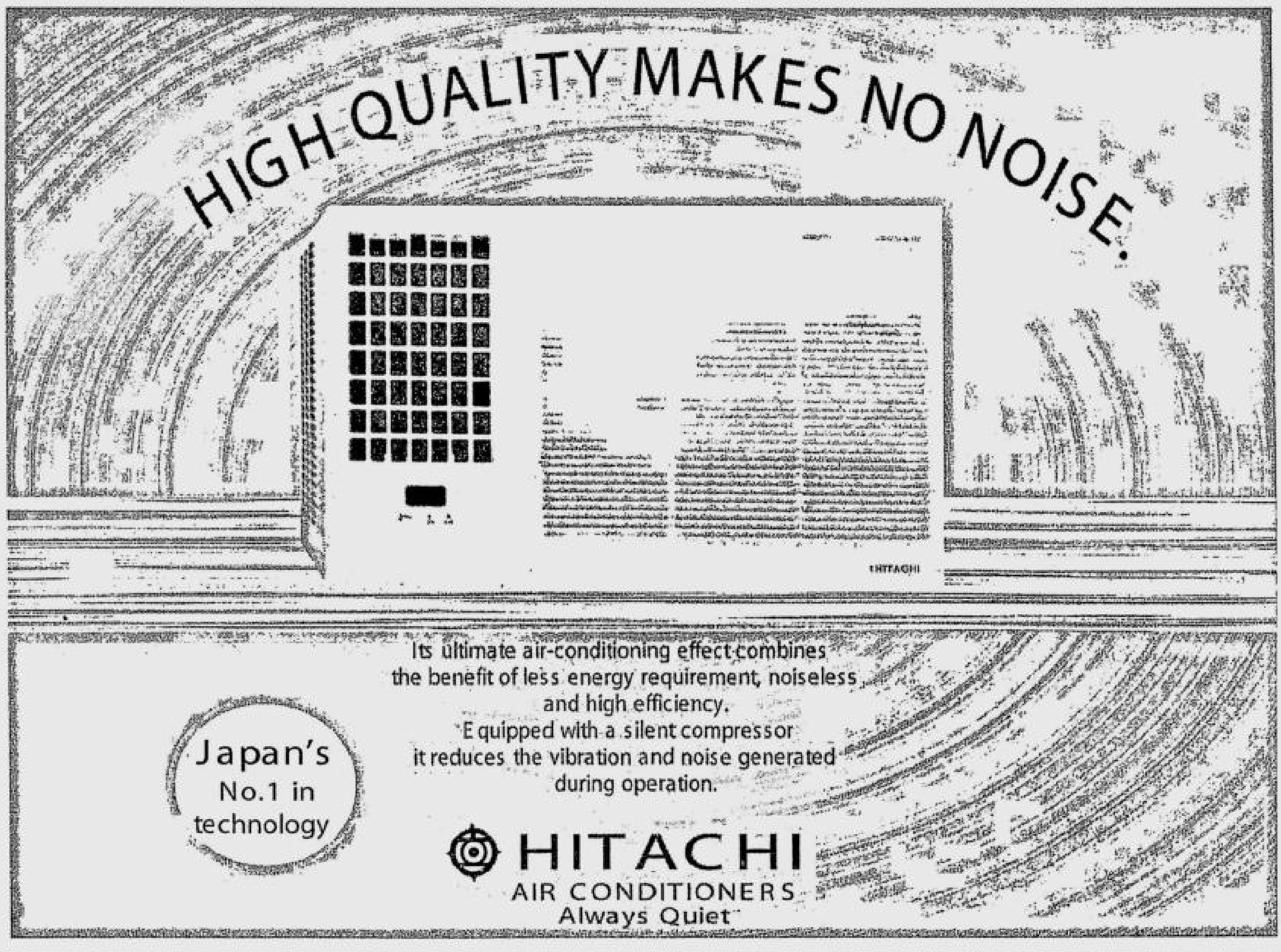
"It sets the stage for the unhampered entry and exit of US troops in the Philippines," Ocampo told the INQUIRER.

Prof. Roland Simbulan of the Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition said the talks on the MLSA confirmed that the US government was "seeking a restored military presence for intervention in the Philippines and as a springboard against other countries."

A lawmaker in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao wants the President to extend the Balikatan exercise in Basilan beyond July 31.

Assemblywoman Rajam Akbar, representing the lone district of Basilan in the ARMM's Regional Legislative Assembly, said her constituents had changed their stand on the US military presence there.

Akbar said the Americans also helped improve peace and order in Basilan. ***With a report from Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



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Probe of ARMM school fees ordered

COTABATO CITY—Education Secretary Raul Roco yesterday ordered an investigation into reports that public schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao have been collecting fees from elementary and high school enrollees.

"This is illegal and should be stopped," Roco said in an interview with dxMS radio here.

He said there was no reason for ARMM education officials to collect the fees even if they belong to an autonomous region.

"They cannot collect even P1 for any reason," Roco said.

Vice Gov. Mahid Mutilan, ARMM education secretary could not be reached for comment.

Udtog Kawit, Maguindanao schools division superintendent, said he was willing to have the matter investigated.

Parents had asked Roco to intervene after some schools started charging as much as P500 per student.

The fee was broken down into Boy Scout and Girl Scout fees, PTA fee, development fee and other charges which the parents said they were unfamiliar with.

In Davao City, private school officials have reported a steady reduction in enrollment figures as parents have begun moving their school-age children to the public schools because of economic straits.

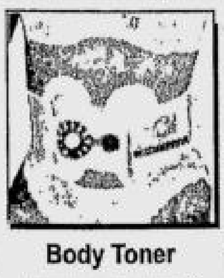
Iris Millesa, president of the Holy Cross of Davao College (HCDC) and an official of the Davao Association of Catholic Schools, blamed the economic crisis and warned that if the trend continued, some private schools in the city would be forced to close.

She said the slowdown began over the past few years for HCDC whose enrollment rolls had been full just five years ago.

"The enrollment (for HCDC) is significant. It speaks of the kind of economy we have," Millesa told reporters at a forum last Wednesday.

One tertiary school lost about 3,000 of its students during the first semester of 2001, while another lost half of its population over the past two years, she said.

Millesa conceded the high tuition being charged by private schools may be contributing to the decline. ***Edwin Fernandez and Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



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Suspects in Erap's 'all-out war' freed

MATI, Davao Oriental—After almost two years in detention, the 31 Muslims who were arrested during ex-President Joseph Estrada's all-out war on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are finally free.

Though their freedom is only temporary, the detainees were jubilant as they walked out of jail late Wednesday.

"At last we are free. We can now get back at Erap (Estrada). Unfortunately for him, he might end up being hanged," said Ustadz Rosel Lagbawan, one of the detainees.

Judge Diosdado Yamas of the regional trial court here ordered the "provisional dismissal" of Lagbawan and his companions who were detained on murder and robbery charges.

The charges stemmed from the death of at least 10 soldiers in Tarragona town in early 2000 and the disarming of several militiamen by suspected MILF rebels.

Lagbawan and his companions were arrested in July 2000 on suspicion of being MILF members.

The detainees, represented by lawyers from the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), tried to have the charges quashed but the lack of a judge in the province, complicated by the inhibition of provincial prosecutor Pableo Baldoza from the case, delayed the decision.

Lagbawan said he and his companions were surprised when Prosecutor Benjamin Pacetes moved last Wednesday for the provisional dismissal of the cases against them for lack of evidence.

In his manifestation to the court, Pacetes said that Rodel Mapando and Toto Onofre, two of the original detainees who had pointed to the other suspects, were "subjected to physical violence and torture" by the military and they were made to sign prepared affidavits.

"I have doubts about this investigation and the manner (in which) it was conducted by the military," wrote Pacetes, who said he then proceeded to investigate the authenticity of the affidavits and examine the witnesses.

He said the witnesses told him they had not been informed of their rights nor were they provided with counsel.

Pacetes said the provisional dismissal of the cases would allow the state to pursue the cases at a later time when credible witnesses could be found.
Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

e-Government exhibit targets bureaucracy

LESS red tape in government and a more efficient bureaucracy.

This is the premise of e-Gobyerno 2002, a two-day exhibit and seminar to be conducted by the Information Technology and e-Commerce Council (ITeCC) and the Congressional Oversight Committee on e-Commerce (COCeC) on June 7-8 at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall.

The exhibit and seminar will showcase the initiatives taken by government departments and agencies in the use of information and communication technologies in the country.

e-Gobyerno 2002 follows the implementation of the e-Commerce Law or Republic Act 8792, which was signed two years ago to define the country's policies on e-trade.

The e-Commerce Law mandates an on-line government by June 2004.

e-Gobyerno will also focus on establishing an e-government which would implement effective information systems within the bureaucracy and with the private sector for better service to the public.

"e-Government can also help lessen corrupt practices prevalent in almost all facets of the government," said Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., COCeC co-chair.
Anissa Apolinario

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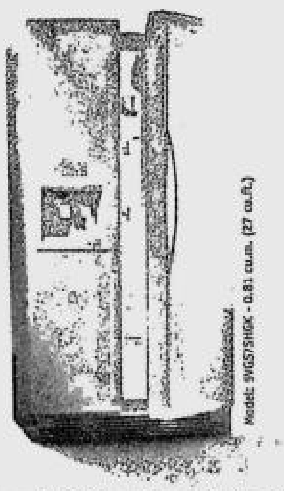

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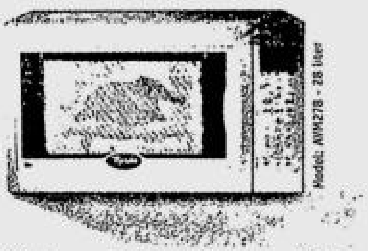

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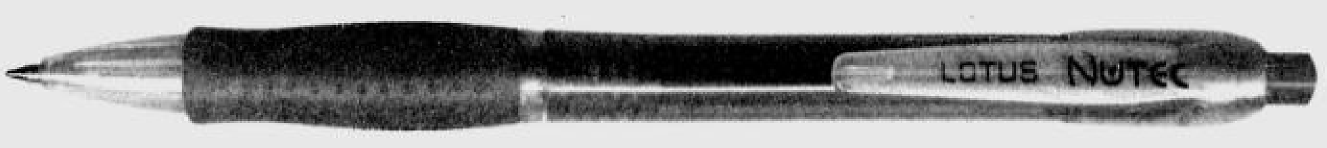

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Heaven and hell

EDITORIAL

THE DAY after the Supreme Court refused to act on the government's petition to reopen the Kuratong Baleleng murder case, Sen. Panfilo Lacson claimed a big legal victory and declared, "God is with us." Now only a week later, he is threatening to raise hell right on the Senate floor.

For Lacson, such references to hell are getting to be a habit. Last year in his first privilege speech as a senator, he told his detractors to "go to hell" if they could not prove that he had $200 million or $700 million "in any bank in the world." He also said he was ready to go to jail and "willing to go to hell" if he was found to have stashed away so much money, but if he was found innocent, his accusers should "give the devil their everlasting company."

Lacson's new threat to raise hell came Tuesday after administration senators released a draft report of three committees that investigated allegations of his alleged links to illegal drug syndicates and kidnap gangs. Among the recommendations contained in the report was that the Department of Justice pursue an investigation of the allegations. The report prepared by the committee on public order and illegal drugs, the committee on national defense and security and the blue ribbon committee also recommended that charges be filed against Lacson's men in the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

The report concluded that there was prima facie evidence that Lacson's men, including some ranking police officers, participated in the kidnapping of six Chinese nationals. In one particular case, Lacson endorsed a request for an investigation from the Chinese Embassy to a police superintendent who was himself accused of being one of the abductors.

The report said Lacson, "while in the police service, was accountable for neglect of duty." He could also be held liable for violations of the PNP Code of Professional Conduct and the Code for Public Officials, it added.

Lacson dismissed the report as "a mere draft and therefore malicious gossip." He pointed out that it was not official since only 10 out of the 22 members signed it. That made it nothing "but a scrap of paper," he said.

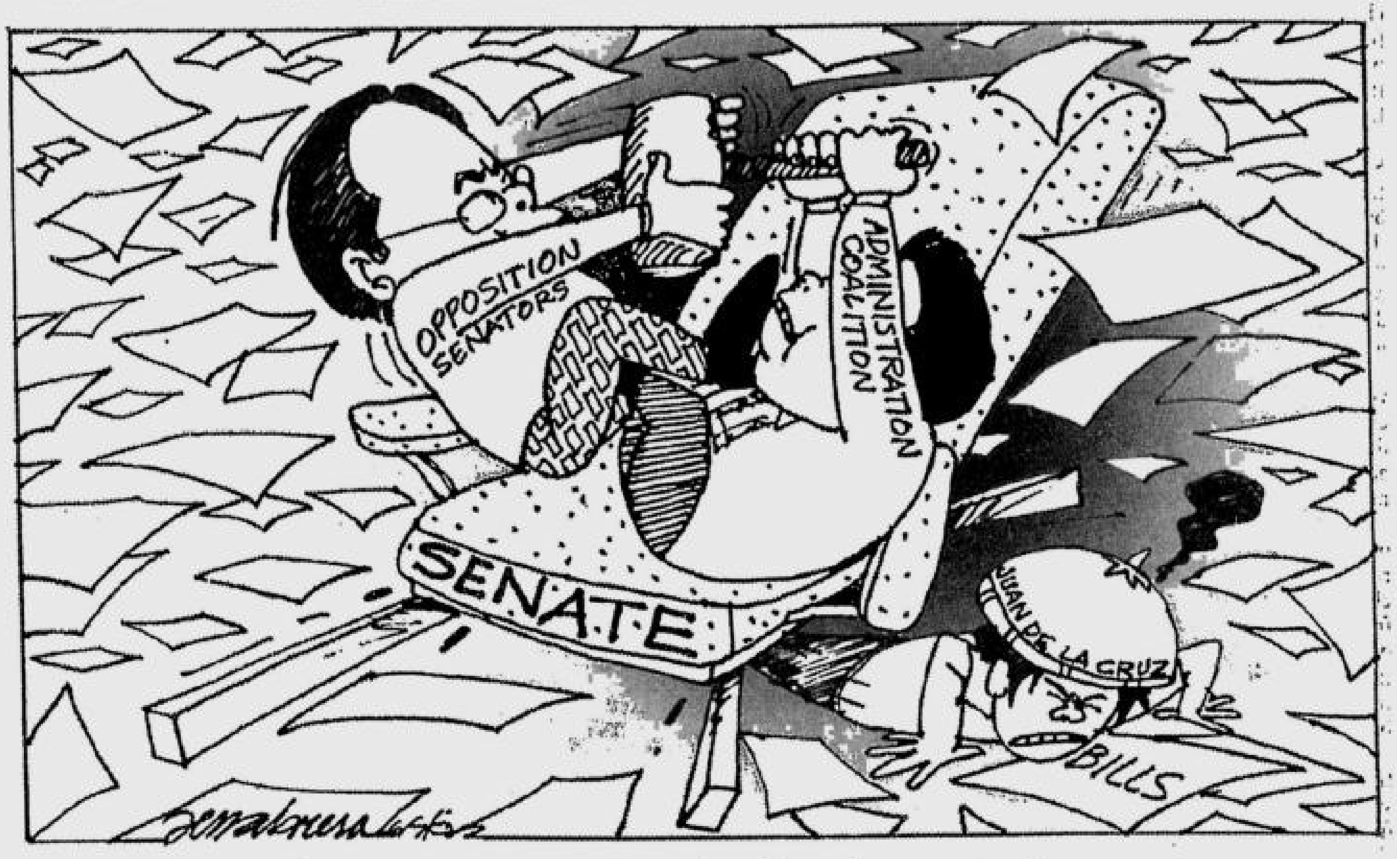
True, the report does not carry an official seal, but it would take more than Lacson's declaration to turn it into worthless gossip. Thousands, possibly millions, of Filipinos have seen, heard and read about the charges made by several witnesses summoned to the Senate hearings, including Mary "Rosebud" Ong, the former anti-narcotics agent who meticulously kept a journal of events she testified about as well as documents to support her testimony.

If the report does not bear the signatures of other committee members, it is because they themselves manufactured a good excuse not to sign it. Or so the administration senators claim. They have said that the opposition maneuvered to reorganize the Senate committees precisely to block the official release of the damning report. "It was a preemptive strike," said Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee.

Of course, Lacson has denied that the Senate reorganization had anything to do with the release of the report. He isn't that powerful or influential among his colleagues, Lacson said.

Ordinarily it would seem unbelievable that senators would cover up for a colleague. But the possibility doesn't look far-fetched when one looks at the characters behind this circus. Many have in fact participated in the most brazen and shameless scheme to suppress the truth about high crimes committed by the highest official of the land, then President Joseph Estrada. Others saw nothing wrong in supporting Estrada up to the very end despite all the evidence of incompetence and corruption in his administration, and indeed made a virtue of their mindless loyalty to someone who was disloyal to his oath. So to them, what is one more effort to hide the truth and obstruct justice?

There is very little anyone can do if the opposition senators want to help Lacson reduce to a worthless scrap of paper the long days of Senate hearings on the drug trafficking and kidnapping charges against Lacson and his men. But certainly, the government is not helpless. With or without the Senate committee report, the DOJ can investigate the very serious allegations made against Lacson and others. Now that the Senate has done its work (accomplishing almost nothing, it seems), it should hasten to pick up the case and pursue it to its conclusion. Lacson need not declare publicly again his willingness to go to hell if he is found guilty. A long stay in jail should be punishment enough.



Ex-president, senators linked to Caloocan scam

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FORMER CALOOCAN Mayor Macario Asistio Jr. wrote a quick comment on my column last June 5 about more revelations on the anomalous sale of a 2.2-hectare prime lot in Monumento, Caloocan City. Asistio specifically quoted this sentence: "Four years after, when then COA Chair Domingo was replaced by Celso Gangan as COA chair…the COA finally approved the sale at a slightly higher price without, however, insisting on a public bidding…Mayor Malonzo refused to approve the sale."

Asistio wrote in his letter: "Records at the City Hall's office and the courts will show, however, that after Malonzo took his oath of office as mayor in 1995, he received a letter from Gotesco informing him of the new decision of the COA approving the price at P8,036 per square meter and public bidding being dispensed with.

"I filed a motion for reconsideration, arguing as a private citizen that the COA decision of 1990 can no longer be reconsidered after four years and the sale in 1990 was not perfected. The original assessment of the COA was P15,000 per sq. m. Despite the motion, Malonzo requested the Sangguniang Panglunsod to pass an ordinance pegging the price at P8,036 per sq. m. and posited that the sale was already perfected in 1990. Consequently, he, in fact, executed an amended contract of sale on Nov. 29, 1998. It is for this stand of Malonzo that Gotesco was able to illegally maneuver to acquire Gotesco (the land where it stands) without paying a single centavo.

"Unfortunately, the NBI may have deliberately omitted to mention these facts in its report, thus excluding Malonzo from any complicity in the conspiracy to sell the city's land and building at a very low price.

"The issue is now with the Senate and I will present the documents proving that Malonzo is co-principal in this greatest larceny committed against the City of Caloocan.

"Most incriminatingly telling is the legal opinion of his city legal officer, Atty. Francisco, endorsed to the Sangguniang Panglunsod by Enrico Echiverri recommending adoption of the amended COA decision and the 1990 proposed sale; the letter of Ms Balmes admitting the existence of an amended deed of sale signed by Malonzo on Nov. 29, 1998; the message of Malonzo to council in support of the claim of Gotesco that the property be sold at a very low price of P8,000 per sq. m.; the city budget of Caloocan for the year 1998, showing as income the amount to be derived from the sale; and the affidavit of Cherry Sarmiento, city councilor of Caloocan, detailing the secret deals of Malonzo.

"There are many matters that I will reveal, including the involvement of some national public officials, and known big-time businessmen and bankers who, in one way or another, supported and participated and still remain part of the cover-up on Malonzo's scandalous deal.

"For that reason, as implied in your column, that Malonzo lately tried to portray himself a hero by allegedly opposing the sale, is a question that only Malonzo and Jose Go can answer. We can only surmise '*baka nagkaonsehan.*'"

* * *

The cover-up for this deal is turning out to be as deep as that of Watergate. Asistio told the Senate hearing last Tuesday that a former president and several senators are involved in the cover-up. One incumbent senator was involved from the very beginning, according to Asistio.

Curiously, not one of the senators of the blue ribbon committee which is investigating the deal asked who the ex-president and senators were. Instead, Sen. Renato Cayetano stood up and whispered something to committee chair Joker Arroyo who immediately adjourned the hearing. That was about 2 p.m. Maybe the reason was that Senate President Franklin Drilon had already adjourned the Senate because of the coup by the 12-man opposition senators.

Asistio told me during an interview that he was disappointed with the senators in the hearing. He said they seemed to be uninterested in knowing the truth; they were only going through the motions of an investigation. He is worried that his testimony would be useless since he has not been invited to testify anymore.

From what Asistio told me, some senators already know the truth but they don't want the public to know it. It appears like the investigation was intended to whitewash the case.

Anyway, if the new majority really wants to get at the truth and serve the nation, the new blue ribbon committee now headed by Sen. Edgardo Angara should hold hearings even during the recess and invite Asistio to testify at an executive session so he can talk freely and show his documentary evidence. So many big people are involved here.

For example, I learned from a different source that a Chinese-Filipino businessman talked to Asistio last Saturday to ask him not to rat on Go. The go-between was a prominent Filipino banker and the lawyer was a Chinese-Filipino.

Many more officials, past and present, know bits and pieces about the deal. Some of them participated in the attempted cover-up. The Senate investigators should question them.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Topic of next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) forum is the Senate power grab. Invited as panelists are Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate Majority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Sen. John Osmeña, Speaker Jose de Venecia and House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla.

Sense of urgency

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THEIR acronym may sound a little tangled—the International Coalition for Overseas Filipinos' Voting Rights (ICOFVR)—but their message is not. That message they sent loud and clear in the full-page advertisement they ran in the INQUIRER last Tuesday. It holds a special significance today, which is Migrants Day.

They have been waiting for 15 years for the vote. It is expressly mandated by the 1987 Constitution, but for some reason Congress has never found a way to implement it. Instead, Congress has shown only indifference, if not scorn, for it. The people who want that vote are well-informed about what's happening at home, thanks in no small way to great strides in communications. The notion that the overseas vote will be prey to fraud is fraudulent. They are the best assurance it won't be rigged. If any group of Filipino voters cannot be coerced by guns, goons and gold, it is they. They are beyond reach of them.

But after five congresses, four presidents and 64 absentee voting bills, they are still waiting. In August last year, Jose de Venecia assured them the overseas voting bill would be passed by December. Nothing happened. Since then, they have been assured the bill would be passed yesterday, June 6, before Congress went on recess. Still, nothing happened.

They are tired of waiting. "We promise to actively boot out of office those obstructing the long overdue passage of the absentee voting bill. Please do not forget that we will remember."

An OFW named Daphne, who has worked in China for nine years now (Shanghai, Qingdao, Beijing and Hong Kong), gives us a more personal side to this issue. Her own words argue eloquently for her case: "We overseas Filipinos feel the vote is one of the few means we have to get ourselves heard. During Erap's impeachment trial, we heard suggestions for us to stop our remittances if we did not get the vote. But we could not do that because a lot of our relatives back home would have suffered if we stopped sending them money.

"Unfortunately, a lot of congressmen do not seem to appreciate our desperation to have this bill passed. How I wish they would take time to look into the exchanges in our OFW network at OFW-vote@yahoogroups.com and see how the overseas workers are spending sleepless nights from different time zones exchanging views on how to push this. We come from different backgrounds, different political persuasions, but are united in our goal to participate in the next electoral exercise in 2004.

"During the series of consultations Sen. Edgardo Angara conducted in Hong Kong, the Middle East, Japan and the United States, he expressed surprise at the passion displayed by the OFW's for the bill. We were insistent that the counting and canvassing be done in the host countries so that we ourselves could monitor everything and make sure our votes are recorded properly.

"The bill is not a GMA bill. It is the product of 15 years of intense lobbying by overseas Filipinos. The votes of seven million overseas Filipinos will definitely change the profile of election results. We will not sell our votes and hopefully most of us will not vote for personalities.

"What we've heard from Congress in the past days is not encouraging. The Comelec has told us that we need to have this law passed during this session if we want to have everything set up for our participation in 2004. Congress will go on recess on June 6. I am sharing this burden with you in the hope that you can highlight our desperation and call the attention of Congress to it."

My pleasure entirely, but we have a saying that it's the hardest thing in the world to wake up someone who is pretending to be asleep. Clearly, the problem is not convincing the congressmen about the merits of the overseas vote—they themselves are first to see them. That can only mean that they do not want it. They do not want the overseas vote because it is beneficial only to the country and not to them. They do not want an intelligent vote, a vote that is impervious to guns, goons and gold, a vote from people who demand to have a country worth returning to, because that vote is something they cannot control. They do not want that vote because that vote is not for them.

Well, may the OFWs mark the men and women in Congress who obstruct that vote and make sure their relatives do not make them congressmen again. But they have another recourse, and a more forceful one. They may not withhold remittances because that truly would punish their families more than anybody else. But they can withhold taxes. That is not treason, that is reason. And the very height of it: No representation, no taxation. That is a cardinal principle of democracy. That is the spark that ignited the American Revolution, among other things.

There's only one more thing I can add to the things I've already said about this. And that is that this fight should not be waged by the OFWs alone. It is a fight that involves all of us, it is a fight that should enlist all of us. At the very least, we owe it to the OFWs. They are not just the modern-day heroes of this country, they are the modern-day messiahs of this country. It is their suffering and deprivation that are rescuing this country from a fate worse than debt, or the consequences of its folly. At the very most, it's self-interest too. The OFWs are the modern-day messiahs of this country also in that their vote stands to rescue this country from the stranglehold of *trapo* politics. Why do you think the congressmen are so afraid of it?

I don't know why the OFWs should feel so alone fighting this fight. There are few things in this country worth fighting for. That is one of them.

Today is Migrants Day. That is pretty much every Filipino's day.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

A squalid test of strength

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE 12-MAN opposition bloc in the Senate ended its rump session yesterday, leaving in its wake a chamber ravaged by internal divisions even before it had recovered from the devastation wreaked by its vote to suppress vital evidence in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada 18 months ago.

On the eve of the termination of the session, Sen. John Osmeña, whose switch to the opposition precipitated the Senate stand-off, tried to break the impasse by proposing a secret ballot on the issue of leadership change. The effort collapsed when Senate President Franklin Drilon rebuffed it, saying that the post of Senate president "is not vacant." Drilon sensed he was walking into a trap, and called the bluff.

Osmeña proposed that anyone who secures 14 votes in a secret ballot would be considered elected as Senate president. But it was extremely doubtful whether the opposition could raid the administration coalition's ranks and capture two more members to tip the balance decisively.

As things stood yesterday afternoon, the stand-off hardened, with 12 for the opposition and 11 remaining in the administration coalition (excluding Sen. Ramon Revilla, who is recuperating from surgery in the United States and who has declared that he is staying with the Drilon coalition). The stalemate now moves into a six-week recess during which raids would be attempted to break the deadlock.

But the Senate emerged even more damaged from this new round of inconclusive power struggle that has plunged to a new low public confidence in an institution once regarded as an anchor of political maturity, balance and statesmanship.

The holding of the rump session by opposition senators who disputed Drilon's early adjournment has left a raft of actions whose legality is being disputed. First, Drilon claims that under the Senate rules, it would require a majority of all Senate members (24) to remove its leadership and elect a new set of officers. In this calculation, 12 opposition members (including the deserter Osmeña) do not make a majority. The opposition needs at least 13 votes to reorganize the Senate and elect new officers (the Senate president and president pro tempore).

From this interpretation therefore, it is rank inaccuracy for the opposition to call itself the "new majority." At best, it has a plurality.

The fact that the opposition did not go all the way and topple Drilon (although it designated Sen. Blas Ople as president pro tempore and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. as majority leader) gave Drilon the opportunity to assert his powers and authority as Senate president. The opposition developed cold feet, a sign that it was not sure it was standing on firm grounds when it moved to reorganize the committees. Thus, Drilon used the high ground to counter-attack and declare all the actions of the rump session invalid.

The opposition's claim that it has passed relatively more bills than the regular session, and therefore has delivered more results, is a case of one-upmanship. It contravenes the Congress' rule that the Senate cannot unilaterally pass bills after the House has adjourned. The consequence of these bills is that if the administration coalition succeeds in raiding the ranks of the opposition and gains new members to break the stalemate by July 22, all the reorganization of the committee chairmanships and all the bills passed become an empty exercise. They will all come to naught. These bills will be thrown back to where they had been prior to the sine die adjournment on June 3.

Indicating one of the goals of its half-cooked coup attempt, the "new majority" decided to pull out one of its members, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, from the quicksand. They decided to recall the joint report of three Senate committees recommending the filing of kidnap-for-ransom and drug trafficking charges against Lacson. The committee chairpersons released the report just minutes before the opposition reorganized the committees.

The recall of the report shows that the opposition is not beyond covering up its vulnerable members who have been the subject of Senate investigations. It is evident that one of the aims of the coup was to stifle investigations on an opposition member, and this belies Osmeña's claim that he bolted the administration camp in protest against efforts to shield former President Fidel V. Ramos from a Senate inquiry into the purchased power adjustment costs controversy.

In terms of what has been accomplished by the rump session during their blitz, nothing really of substance has happened. The conflict has only led to a paralysis that will continue to grip the Senate until it breaks the impasse. The opposition has not gained power, although it attempted to seize control of the Senate

All this goes to show that the upheaval in the Senate involves no issue of principle, such as the independence of the Senate from the executive. The stalemate is a squalid test of strength for control of the Senate, the outcome of which will determine the direction of Senate investigations into scandals involving opposition members, as well as scandals involving the administration. The PPA controversy is one of these and the inquiry into the controversial Piatco deal is another.

I venture to say that the public cannot relate the circus in the Senate to public interests. The charade is utterly irrelevant to the public. And at this point, the public could not care less if the Senate were abolished.

Karen and Rachel

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN people ask me whatever happened to the case of Karen Vertido, who accused prominent Davao businessman Jose Custodio of rape six years ago, they're invariably shocked to learn that the case is far from settled and is still in the middle of litigation.

Most recently, Judge Wenceslao Ibabao of RTC Branch 33 inhibited himself from handling the case after prosecutor Jose Garcia Jr. and private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua argued that being a Mason like Custodio, he could not be fully impartial in arriving at his decision. Though he protested that the reason cited for his removal was too "flimsy and captious," Ibabao eventually voluntarily relinquished his hold on the case.

Ibabao is the second judge to withdraw from the case. Before him, Judge Jesus Quitain of RTC Branch 15 also withdrew after he was ordered to do so by the Court of Appeals upon motion of the defense.

The Custodio case is considered sensational not only because the accused is a prominent businessman but also because, unlike many other survivors of rape, Karen chose to go public with her accusation and allowed herself to be identified in the media and in public events.

For this Karen has had to pay a high price, and I won't be surprised if sometimes she wonders if pursuing the case, which has dragged on for so long, was worth all the humiliation, dislocation and emotional turmoil—not to mention expense—that she and her husband and children have had to undergo.

Still, there seems to be some progress being made, as new information on Custodio's background has surfaced.

* * *

A DAY before Ibabao withdrew from the case, the prosecution submitted as a supplement to their motion for inhibition the account of Rachel Dietrich (formerly Wertz) that told of how Custodio was also protected by a brother Mason, Dr. Rizal Aportadera, after Rachel accused the businessman of molesting her.

In her affidavit, Rachel said she visited Davao in 1980 as a Rotary International exchange student, with the Custodios acting as her host family. About three months after her arrival, Rachel says that on their way home from a banquet that Mrs. Custodio was unable to attend, Custodio parked the car and attempted to molest her, pulling her to him, kissing and touching her. When Rachel resisted, Custodio stopped and drove home. "I don't think the car had even come to a complete stop and I was out and into the house," says Rachel.

Having come from a conservative Christian family, and raised to respect her elders, Rachel said she was afraid that no one would believe her story about the respected businessman and her foster father. But she managed to confide in a teacher who started to make arrangements for her to stay with another family. This was the Aportaderas, who explained that they would have to prepare their home first and would make the necessary arrangements with the Custodios about the transfer.

* * *

THAT evening, over dinner, Custodio said that Aportadera had called him about Rachel's moving in with them and that he wanted to know why. "He gave me a look like I better keep my mouth shut," says Rachel. "His look was so smug, as if to say I couldn't touch him and I better not even try. He had a real way of intimidating you, so I played dumb and never said a word to his family."

What about the Aportaderas and the other officers and members of the local Rotary? Weren't they concerned about the club's reputation in the light of what happened to a young American exchange scholar who had been entrusted in their care, through Custodio? Rachel is silent on this, but admits that she never took formal action as "I was afraid that people would believe him, a person with money and power, over me, a little insignificant nobody."

"This man...has been having problems keeping his hands off women for at least 16 years. In my case, I was an American citizen and a minor...The longer a wound is left untreated, the more it festers and the worse the infection gets. He started out molesting teenage girls and now has been accused of rape...where does it go from here?" Rachel asks plaintively.

* * *

SURELY, when Karen went public with her story, those who knew what had happened to Rachel—the teacher, the Aportaderas, the Rotarians—remembered the incident and must have discerned a possible pattern of behavior.

But why did the business community, as well as the worthies of Davao City, including civic groups like the Rotary, stand foursquare behind Custodio and reject outright the testimony of Karen? Karen was not totally unknown to them. She was, after all, executive director of the city's chamber of commerce.

Things got so bad for the Vertidos in Davao that Karen felt she could no longer go to market or walk in public without people staring at her and whispering speculations. The local media, especially radio, were hard on her case, filling air time with unfounded and baseless talk about her sexual history.

I hesitate many times to come out with updates on Karen's case because, while many people avow admiration for her courage and tenacity, her long ordeal could possibly discourage other women from walking down this same path.

The going is far from smooth and is indeed strewn with obstacles. And there is the surprising tenacity of the trauma's emotional and even physical ramifications. But maybe this is why women like Karen and Rachel deserve our respect and admiration. Against all odds and at great cost, they are speaking out and in their own way, letting justice be done.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Travel writing

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN I saw the front-page photos of the President and the tourism secretary taking a raft down a raging river in Cagayan and hiking up to the crater of Pinatubo, I couldn't help but think of all the travel accounts on the Philippines that I have read over the years. Ninth century Chinese travelers described pre-colonial Filipinos as "barbarians." Antonio Pigafetta, the chronicler of the Magellan expedition, was fascinated by penis implements and asked to see these things. However, the Filipino machos suddenly turned modest. Perhaps, they were pulling Pigafetta's leg and historians like myself have never gotten the joke after five centuries.

Alfred Marche in the 19th century took the first photograph of the sultan of Sulu. Josephine Craig, a schoolteacher in the early 20th century, tried to define the distinct racial smell of Filipinos. There are descriptions of Filipino character, the beauty of Mayon or Taal or Filipino *mestizas*. There are accounts of food, drink, fiestas, cockfighting and carabaos.

Most of these are foreign travel accounts on the Philippines and the Filipinos. Surely, it would be good to read a Filipino point of view, but then writers like Pedro Paterno, Jose Rizal, Antonio Luna and Marcelo H. del Pilar were too busy writing home from Europe to let their relatives know what it was like to be abroad.

One of the projects I hope to complete in my lifetime will be a compilation of travel writing by Filipinos. As a historian, I have relied heavily on accounts of the Philippines from foreign eyes. Wouldn't it be fascinating to see the great capitals of the world—London, Paris, Madrid, New York, etc.—from the eyes of Filipinos? Wouldn't it be interesting to see how Filipinos looked at their own country in the 19th century and contrast it with the views of foreign tourists.

If I had another lifetime to waste on research, I would dig up old travel brochures on the Philippines and try to see what was the selling point of the Philippines before beaches and sex tours. Zoilo Galang's "Encyclopedia of the Philippines," mostly compiled in the 1930s and whose last edition was printed in 1950, has some hard-sell tourist material that will make Dick Gordon squirm. Sample this:

"The Philippines beckons you! Traveler, *Mabuhay!* See your country first! *See the Philippines and then die happily*. Such is the call of the tropics."

I immediately associated this prewar blurb with dengue and the Abu Sayyaf today.

The Philippine Tourist Bureau even had an exact figure for the number of islands in the archipelago—7,083—while most brochures are vague and estimate that we have 7,100 islands, more or less, depending on whether you count at high tide or low tide. The Philippines was described as "a great jade necklace across the throat of Asia...unspoiled vacation place...where winter is unknown...where life flows easily and sweetly...where the polo season lasts eight months...where countless contrasts greet the eye, amaze, astound and intrigue the senses, etc, etc." Now, that is what I call superlatives.

Then, as now, a calendar of events was compiled by the Philippine Tourist Association to give the visitor an idea of what to do and where from January to December. The typical weather and fruits for the month are given as well as fiestas in the various towns and provinces around the country. For example:

"APRIL—Holy Week and Easter religious festivals in every hamlet in the Islands. Festival of the Black Nazarene in Manila (*Shouldn't this be in January?)* Rite of the Flagellants in the provinces. Parade of the talking images at Paete. Pilgrimages to Pakil, Laguna. Delicious native fruits ripen, including macopa, lanka, atis, siniguelas, duhat, camachile, pacuan, melons, mangoes, pomeloes. Warm dry weather continues."

Baguio is highly recommended. Winter social season in Manila runs from November to February, summer season in Baguio from March to June marked by golf tournaments that end with the beginning of the rainy season. June to September is the summer season catering to residents of Hong Kong and Shanghai! Then in December you have the opening of the big game hunting season, highlighting deer, wild carabao, tamaraw, wild pig and game birds for the shooting. National Swimming Meet in Manila at the "Jose Rizal Natatorium" which I presume was the Olympic size pool at the Rizal Memorial Stadium. Baseball league in September. Polo, gymkhana and horse show in March and the Far Eastern championship games in Manila in May.

Reading all this makes me conclude that the target audience for this material was a male tourist inclined to sports. I could be wrong, but all the activities are masculine except for religious events and the flower season, sampaguita, ilang-ilang, orchids, etc. The text was obviously written before the Battle for Manila in 1945 because there was a lot of sightseeing available in Intramuros.

Would you believe that Pier 7 in Manila was a tourist attraction? It was described as "the most beautiful pier in the Orient which has cost the government four million pesos..."

That's like luring tourists to come and see our airport. Times have really changed.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

A 20-year career that travels well

HIGH BLOOD

Violeta Hughes-Davis

WE'D also like to know the concer of the sixtysomething and abov what makes their blood pressure ri or makes them sit back, content th all's well with their world and wit themselves. **—Ed.**

AT THE END of June 2000, I retired from a state universit in the US Midwest, where I had worked for 21 years as "foreign student adviser." The following year, my husband and I left the United States to live in the Philippines.

I migrated to the United States in the mid-1960s, an settled in the Midwest as the wife of a faculty member. Ther I volunteered with a university organization helping inte national visitors. I did not realize it then, but when I signe up to volunteer, I was launching my career in international education, without even knowing that there was such a discipline. I just wanted to satisfy my almost rude curiosity to know people from other countries, a curiosity that grew out of my desire to explore what lay beyond my little hometown in Bicol.

Higher education institutions in the United States have international offices that cater to the needs of their foreign students and post-doctoral visitors. I interned in the International Office as a graduate student and settled into full time work as an adviser after I got my degree. I started working first with international students, but ended up advisin two other groups: American students outbound for their junior year study abroad and post-doctoral researchers and professors.

Most of the people with whom I worked fell into the 16 to 30-year-old bracket, mostly graduate students and a few undergraduates. American undergraduate schools dropped the idea of serving *in loco parentis* in the 19th century, but as advisers, my colleagues and I felt some parental responsibility for the young international students who were living thousands of miles away from their parents, many for the first time and hard put to control newly unleashed, imperious hormones. I found myself reenacting my maternal role all over again 10 years after my own son graduated.

Being young, many of the students inevitably became involved in cross-cultural romances, and my colleagues and I were almost always privy to a number of romantic tales. Many times we were guests at splendid weddings that combined Western and traditional practices.

I did, however, witness, some heartrending break-ups involving couples who were so deeply in love that they forgot how difficult it was to close the cultural and generational gaps that separated them from their parents' blessings.

There were some irrepressible personalities who became part of our office lore. One was the daughter of a Nigerian general who came to the university at the peak of the Nigerian oil boom. She had so much money that she didn't think twice about flying to London weekly for a manicure and a hot-oil treatment. And I thought Filipinos had a monopoly on sinful and ludicrous consumption!

Several dramatic situations challenged my notion of the "quiet academe." I knew graduate students who threatened suicide after failing their doctoral defense and female students traumatized by sexual harassment by lecherous professors. Unfortunately, some of the suicide threats succeeded and we had the sad duty of informing parents and the grim job of arranging the last flight home.

Preparing American students for their junior year abroad was an eye-opener. Before this job, I had always thought of them as savvy, independent sophisticates. I was as naive as the land-locked, corn-fed Midwestern American youngsters I was trying to advise. My biggest mistake was in assuming that high-achieving students would succeed in any foreign university.

I still remember the first student, a smart young woman, articulate in both English and Spanish whom I sent to our exchange university in Madrid. No sooner had she set foot in her apartment in Madrid than she was on the phone to her mother, asking for a return plane ticket.

Yet there were intrepid souls like the pre-med student who had more spunk than francs, bicycling all the way from De Gaulle Airport to his university in York, England.

Before studying abroad, many American kids firmly believe that "America is No. 1." Inevitably, their foreign peers would jolt them into reality with a hard lesson in global politics: America is not No.1 universally.

Working with post-doctoral professors and researchers required a different set of skills, as generally this group was older and more senior. They came to the United States to collaborate on a research project, co-author a book or teach. Many of them had studied in the United States for their doctoral degrees. I knew some of them when they were studying for their graduate degrees at the same university years ago, so we had the pleasure of renewing acquaintances, marveling at how quickly the years had passed. Although the problems presented by this group were different, they were no less intense, involving as they did such issues as professional integrity and plagiarism, sexual harassment and "slave driving."

As professionals working with an international group, my colleagues and I had to keep abreast with international events so we could be pro-active with our clientele. The hostage-taking crisis in Iran and the oil bust in the 1970s, the fall of the Iron Curtain in the early 1990s, the Gulf War, the Asian economic crisis, any mishap involving international flights—all these touched the lives of our clientele. Inevitably, we got involved and had to extend assistance.

As an Asian-American professional, I was not so naïve as to think that the US government accepted international students into their schools out of pure altruism. International students are valued for the diversity they provide to the campus and the opportunity they give American students to learn about other cultures, preparing them to live in an increasingly global world. Educating these international students in the United Stated is the surest way for the United States to spread American culture, influence and brand names around the world. Equally important, nearly a million international students enrolled in American schools spend close to $7.5 billion annually for tuition and living expenses in the United States.

My profession as an "international student adviser" was a true Godsend, one of those jobs for which you were "paid for doing what you love to do." I did not become rich, but I count many other rewards instead, among them the numerous friends I made from all over the world who welcome me to their homes. Words like "Chechen" or "Tutsi" ceased to be mere words I hear on CNN, but people I have met and talked to and through whom I have learned to rein in mindless condemnation and easy generalities. I picked up useful phrases such as "*Inshaalah,*" "*Yoboseo*", etc. which, although spoken with a funny accent, always elicited a smile or broke the ice in tense situations. I am gratified that I had the opportunity to help some potential national leaders complete their studies, enjoy their college life, appreciate another culture and broaden their vision of the world, and that I did my part in shaping a portion of the future human capital of the world.

Violeta Hughes-Davis is 63 years old.

Leave judgment to the court

THE LETTER of Fr. Shay Cullen to the INQUIRER last May 21 contained a lot of double-talk.

Father Shay said that the bishop testified in court to support a convicted pedophile. He did nothing of the kind. Convicted pedophiles are in jail. This man is not. The fact that the bishop testified only shows that the case was pending, a case in which a previous conviction is under review and no final judgment has been rendered.

It is further misleading to say that the bishop testified in support of the accused. A witness does not take the stand to let the judge know what side he is on. The bishop testified to the facts in the interest of justice. If the facts happen to favor the accused, it is the facts that support the accused, not the bishop. If Father Shay wants to suppress those facts, his sense of justice is, to put it mildly, questionable.

Prejudging the man as a pedophile smacks of defamation. He may think the man is guilty. I know several priests who think he is not. But that is neither here nor there. The case is sub judice, and it is not for Father Shay to decide.

Father Shay claimed that "here in Zambales the faithful cannot understand why the bishop" did what he did. Nonsense. Maybe he cannot understand why the bishop would take a stand for adults as well as for children, with no bias one way or the other. The faithful have no problem with that, even if Father Shay has.

He may feel that no one, certainly no bishop, should even appear to take the side of the accused in a case of child abuse. He says that "the victims of child abuse ought to be the primary concern of the Church, not the perpetrators." But what if an innocent man were convicted because some pertinent facts in the case were withheld from the court? Such a miscarriage of justice would not help the abused children in any way, but would compromise the instigator of the injustice.

In this connection, let Father Shay consider another case in point. After hanging up a dismal picture of child abuse by priests and tolerance by bishops in the United States, he called our attention to the bishop of Iba. We know that in our diocese, thank God, no priest has been accused of child abuse in court—nobody, except Father Shay. I understand that while he was allegedly in hiding to avoid arrest, some influential people came to his aid to quash the case. Would Father Shay say that those people did wrong in testifying in his favor, since he was accused in a case of child abuse? Of course, he says that he was framed, and that could very well be true. He further says that the Australian accused was not framed but is guilty, and again that is possible. But everybody, including Father Shay, should leave judgment to the court. That is the respect he owes the court, not to mention the respect he owes our bishop and his fellow priests.

I am aware that I may have hurt his feelings, but did he not say that "the freedom to complain and protest is the most fundamental human right and it has to be exercised no matter who is involved"?

**—FR. SILVERIO DELTOUR,
c/o St. Columban Church,
Olongapo City**

Untapped sources of solutions for RP problems

I OFTEN read more accusations and denials in the local press on the entire spectrum of problems plaguing the republic. Today's obsession seems to be casting blame for a blackout rather than looking for the cause.

A nation that sends so many brilliant engineers and technicians abroad to build desalination plants to provide drinking water to Saudi Arabia or build fantastic skyscrapers cannot solve a power outage.

I suggest that the government agency that manages overseas workers ask the assistance of these workers. This is an untapped resource to solve and submit ideas on long-range working solutions from their respective trades.

**—KEVIN RUSSELL, K.S.A.,
krussell31starrs@hotmail.com**

Tired of running, tired of war

I AM the wife of a deceased Moro Islamic Liberation Front member, a teacher in the Lanao Elementary School and a former resident of Camp Abubakar, which was overrun by the military two years ago.

I would like to thank the government for letting us go back to our place. As everyone knows, it is so hard to live in one place, only to be forced to transfer to another place so often. This is like running for your life.

The peace agreement that was agreed upon by the government and the MILF is truly a blessing for us. After government troops seized the MILF camps, I never thought we would ever be able to go back. Now that we are living freely inside the camp, I have promised myself that my family will change whatever life we had in the past. My husband is dead. It's time for us to move on and live a free life without secrecy and without fear of being seen by government troops.

I hope the old comrades of my husband will not go back to their former camps with the plan to sow terror once again in Lanao and other parts of Mindanao. Every one of us is tired of war. I believe the MILF's own families are tired of war, too. Let us help the government attain peace in Mindanao.

**—FATIMA ASWANI,
Poblacion Kauswagan,
Lanao del Sur**

Wrong computation of SSS pension

AFTER REACHING the age of 60 years on Jan. 21, 2000, I applied for retirement with the Social Security System. Accordingly, the SSS awarded to me a starting monthly pension of P1,200. This amount is exclusive of the minimum starting monthly pension of P250 for a qualified dependent.

Well and good. But after thinking about it more deeply, I realized that the pension being given to me by the SSS was a mere *consuelo de bobo*.

Why is this so? Because the starting monthly pension awarded to me is just the minimum amount set in the specific provisions of Sections 12-A and 12-E of the amended SSS Law (Republic Act 8282). However, because I was able to pay a total of 206 monthly contributions when I reached 60 years of age, I'm sure that I deserve much more than P1,200 in monthly pension.

I cannot accept the glaring error and distortion caused by the careless and haphazard computation of my retirement pension made by the SSS.

I would appreciate a quick response from the Pensions Processing Center of the SSS in Quezon City. It should correct the wrong computation and adjust my pension accordingly.

**—EMELITA C. SIDAYA, 6
Buenaventura St., Dalandanan,
Valenzuela City**

Airport improvement projects are on track

IN THE INTEREST of truth, may we be allowed to reply to an item in the column of Neal Cruz that appeared last May 29.

It is not true, as Cruz averred, that the Department of Transportation and Communications under Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez failed to take the necessary steps to avail itself of a $93-million loan from the Asian Development Bank for the improvement of six Mindanao airports in Pagadian, Butuan, Cotabato, Sanga-Sanga and Puerto Princesa.

Alan Adena Tan, DOTC assistant secretary, has written Patrick Giraud, director of the Infrastructure Division of the ADB, to inform him that the efforts to acquire the lots needed to expand the airports are on track. "Without doubt," Tan wrote in his letter, "construction in Puerto Princesa can start in October 2002 while works in Cotabato and Butuan can commerce in January 2003. Depending on the availability of counterpart funding in the national budget, the implementation of the Dipolog, Pagadian and Sanga-Sanga airports may be deferred by one year."

The concern of the ADB was based on the alleged failure of the DOTC to acquire the lots needed for the expansion of the airports. But according to Tan, who is also chair of the Third Airports Development Project, the acquisition of lands needed to commence construction was already 97 percent complete.

"Our assessment reveals that the sites required for the civil works construction are available and civil works can commerce in October 2002," Tan said. "We are confident that the lots necessary for implementation of the civil works will be available as and when they are needed."

The DOTC assures the public that the projects will be pushed through. The improvement of the six airports will boost economic progress in Mindanao, assure safety to air passengers according to international standards and convince residents of Mindanao that their region is not being neglected by the national government.

Finally, Cruz is right in saying that perhaps the lack of counterpart funds is hindering the progress of the projects. But the secretary has promised to do everything in his power to obtain the funds and save the projects for the sake of the people of Mindanao and of the entire Philippines.

—RAMON CUYCO, spokesperson, Department of Transportation and Communications, The Columbia Tower, Barangay Wack-Wack, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City

Balanced coverage of Church sex scandal

CONGRATULATIONS to your editorial staff for your balanced and fearless coverage of the current hot issue rocking the Catholic Church today in connection with clerical sex scandals all over the world, especially the clerical sexual aberrations in the United States arising from mandatory celibacy, which some Church officials would not want to be publicized. It is heartening to know that the Philippine media, particularly the INQUIRER, cannot be cowed!

The article of Rev. Tax Rosaldo last May 5 articulated well the indisputable facts about celibacy, expressed dispassionately the "status" of married priests and challenged open-minded Church officials to respond honestly to the promptings of the Holy Spirit—the challenge of the times!

And the INQUIRER, in giving fair coverage to clerical sex scandals, has become God's instrument in proclaiming the truth, for the truth will set us all free—free from ecclesiastical authoritarian insensitivity (amounting to the de-humanization of the priesthood), free from human biases and free from the bondage of ignorance through the conspiracy of silence and cover-up.

So, once again, congratulations for joining us in this crusade to hasten the transformation/renewal of the Church by working meaningfully with us, officers and members of the Philippine Federation of Married Catholic Priests, for the Second Vatican Council's *aggiornamento* that can come only from the grass roots—the people of God—with media fearlessly effecting proper information dissemination.

Certainly, the media, particularly print, can do much in making our people aware of all the sides and aspects of the current issues about clerical sexual abuses arising from compulsory celibacy. This challenging role has been admirably and edifyingly played by the INQUIRER through the publication of articles, news items and letters regarding clerical sex scandals, celibacy, married priesthood, etc.

**—RAMON T. CENTENO JR.,
25 West Drive, Marikina
Heights, Marikina City**

P20 fee for certificate of deposit

THIS is regarding the column of Marietta V. Giron last April 21, with the title "Readers complain about bank/condominium fees and more."

Please be informed that China Banking Corp. is charging only P20 for an official bank certificate of deposit, not P200, as Giron wrote in her column. That amount is the standard charge per certification.

We trust that you will make the necessary rectification so as not to mislead the reading public.

**—MIYA LAGDAMEO-SY,
senior manager, Corplan-Marketing Services Department, China Banking Corp.,
Paseo de Roxas corner Villar Street, Makati City**

The Senate 'coup'

("Voices on INQ7.net" is a weekly round-up of comments selected from those posted by thousands of Filipinos, here and overseas, on the Discussion message boards of INQ7.net, the online news website of the INQUIRER and GMA-7. To participate, register at http://discussions.inq7.net/)

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

NOW is the time to apply people power on the Senate and Sandiganbayan. I hope people power will convene and analyze this situation and put these senators (and congressmen as well) back on the straight and narrow path—the path of service to the people and country. People power should overthrow erring senators and congressmen who are more preoccupied with their political motives and who, as a result, are demonstrating their greed for power. The opposing parties in the Senate and Sandiganbayan are spending most of their time bad-mouthing the President and tearing the other parties up rather than thinking of solutions to poverty, crime, underdevelopment, etc. As I read all these news, I am really getting so sick and tired of the arrogance and lack of sense in what's going on in the Senate and Sandiganbayan. All positions in all branches of the government, whether executive, legislative, or judicial should be regarded as positions of humility, sacrifice and service.**—sonycher**

* * *

Sen. John Osmeña changes his complexion too much! Which side is he really on? I guess it's the side that will pay or benefit him the most. This is the kind of person the people shouldn't trust.**—konserndpinoy**

* * *

I am appalled by how fragile our democracy has become. Today it will only take one "senatong" with a selfish agenda to lay waste the higher house and "set it on fire."

Again, the true color of the opposition showed. They are doing the only best job that they can do, which is to impose their tyrannical numbers upon the Senate to prevent any investigations on their partymate Panfilo Lacson which may unravel the dirty truth behind this sinister policeman turned senator. This is reminiscent of the original dirty deed they are very notorious for: the suppression of evidence believed to be vital to establishing Erap's guilt which sparked Edsa II. Let us hope these new set of "senatongs" are not again pushing our people to the limit of their patience.

I salute the administration senators for not bowing to the whims and manipulations of these rogue senators. The people will be 100 percent behind them!

The new majority in the Senate is a short-lived victory since ailing Sen. Ramon Revilla is with the administration party. It's even at 12-12. Both can share committee chairmanships. It will be a rotation in the Senate leadership. Independent Sen. Noli de Castro may support the new majority to tip the balance.

A revamp in the Senate is a big blow to Malacañang's plan for the 2004 presidential elections. It can no longer protect former President and Lakas partymate Fidel Ramos from a Senate grilling on the PPA fiasco.**—Diego AKS**

* * *

Amando Doronila is wrong. In this stalemate, the senators win.

A stalemate means the "bidding" will be more heated. Whoever can put up the right incentives wins the votes. Malacañang just has to learn how to "share" more.

Senators Inc. wins. There is no stalemate on that. It's business as usual plus a lot more.

The country be damned!**—Yinamiran**

* * *

The good thing that can come out from current developments is that we will finally have a Senate functioning as an independent constitutional body—no longer a rubber stamp of the executive branch.

This is a healthy sign: Democratic process will prevail once again. The principle of check and balance, long lost and forgotten by our elected officials, will then be resuscitated with the new credible Senate leadership.**—panlacson**

* * *

The true issue here is Drilon and his cohorts. More than 2,000 issues/measures were submitted to the Senate and only 65 became law. The power reform act was railroaded by the administration senators who now admit that it is defective. A Senate investigation by Pangilinan about the insider trading allegations of Cayetano was held behind closed doors because they didn't want the stink to come out.

The most damaging risk we face if we don't kick the administration senators out of the committee chairmanships is the privatization of Napocor and Transco. One morning we will wake up to see it in the hands of a man Friday of Gloria. Remember the coco levy fund agreement.

Malacañang claimed that it would not interfere in the Senate's independence. Yet, (1) an administration senator admitted that Malacañang engineered a revamp of committee chairmanships, and (2) Gloria personally telephoned Revilla to ask him, "Please don't abandon me." These are just a few examples of Malacañang's interference to which the administration "senatongs," lapdogs of Arroyo, are happy to accede.

Malacañang's interference in Senate affairs is a clear violation of separation of powers among the three branches of government. And the coup last Monday was just and proper to assert the independence of the Senate.**—Conway**

* * *

Is there a hope for the country with the kind of politicians that we have? The day after the senators squabbled, shares nose-dived 1.2 percent. Clearly, the economy is being affected by these supposedly responsible people. These people don't care where the country goes even if it is down the drain. It's a shame.**—jrcruz jr.**

Who owns disputed land in Caloocan?

WE followed with great interest the two-part article on the real property scam committed against Caloocan City that appeared in the column of Neal H. Cruz in the INQUIRER issues of May 1 and 2, 2002. However, we are constrained to write you in order to give some additional facts relating to the issue.

We are not directly concerned with the controversy between Caloocan City and Gotesco per se. Our purpose is to let the public know that the property is not validly owned by either the city government of Caloocan or Gotesco. The Supreme Court already ruled in two separate cases that OCT No. 994 dated April 19, 1917 is the valid precursor title of certain properties in dispute in Caloocan City. The title of Caloocan City does not derive from OCT No. 994.

Aside from the obvious commercial value of these properties, the owner is moved to enforce his ownership rights to protect the cultural and historical value of the area. It seems that all the infrastructure development talk in the Monumento area has conveniently ignored the looming presence of our hero, Andres Bonifacio. More pitiful is the fact that the solution being proposed is to simply relocate the monument to places far from the historical site.

We are engaged in exploratory talks with reputable developers and concerned government agencies for the purpose of devising an intelligent, modern and well-planned terminal hub project where the Light Rail Transit (LRT), the Metro Rail Transit (MRT), the north rail and non-rail commuter routes will converge. A major element to be considered in this project is the preservation of the Andres Bonifacio monument.

**—PETER PAUL S. ROMERO,
Unit 214 Parc Chateau Condominium, Onyx St., Ortigas
Center, Pasig City**

EEI not involved in property dispute with Metro Pacific

WE write in response to the column of Victor Agustin on May 10, 2002, titled "Unpacified tenants."

Please be informed that the EEI Corp. was not the one that caused the annotation of the notice of lis pendens on the condominium certificates of title of the units at the Pacific Plaza Towers. Rather, it was the SAEI-EEI Construction Corp. which caused the said annotation.

The SAEI-EEI Construction Corp. is a joint venture between EEI Corp. and SAE, a world-renowned French construction company. This joint venture company, the SECC, has for all intents and purposes, a separate legal existence and personality. This is the company, not the EEI, that is involved in the arbitration case against Metro Pacific Corp. and the Bases Conversion Development Authority. It was the one that requested the Register of Deeds to place the notice of lis pendens on the affected titles.

It did not need a court order because, contrary to the opinion of the lawyer mentioned in Agustin's column, the law merely requires that there be a written request and an action or proceeding affecting the title to the land or building to have a notice of lis pendens annotated on a title.

**—FERDINAND G.
VILLAFUERTE, senior vice
president and corporate
secretary, EEI Corp., 3 Calle
Economia corner Industria
Streets, Barangay Bagumbayan,
Quezon City**

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israelis storm Jenin after bus blast

JENIN, West Bank—Israeli tanks and helicopters stormed the West Bank town of Jenin after a massive bomb Wednesday killed at least 16 people on an Israeli bus and threatened to unleash a new cycle of violence.

A car laden with explosives pulled up to the morning rush-hour bus and detonated, ripping the two vehicles apart in a ball of flame near Megiddo Junction in northern Israel, called Armageddon in the Bible.

It was not clear if the shifting death toll included the Palestinian suicide attacker or attackers, but 13 of the 16 known victims were Israeli soldiers, the Army said.

Thirty-seven people were reported wounded, eight seriously.

The deadliest bombing in at least a month prompted fears of a new resurgence in Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed, just as US CIA chief George Tenet tried to kickstart efforts to beef up security structures.

Hours after the blast claimed by the Palestinian hardline group Islamic Jihad, some 30 Israeli tanks backed by Apache helicopters streamed into the group's stronghold of Jenin, 15 km from Megiddo Junction.

The helicopters strafed targets with heavy machine-gun fire and troops started to round up Palestinians, according to Israeli state radio. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The refugee camp in Jenin was the scene of fierce fighting in April during Israel's month-long West Bank offensive. But there was no indication whether Wednesday's operation was a short-term raid or heralded a new major push.

Also on the ground, a unit of the Israeli Army entered the Palestinian town of Bethlehem late Wednesday and began to search a mosque, witnesses said. The soldiers did not meet any resistance.

An Israeli official said it was unlikely there would be a massive response before Prime Minister Ariel Sharon meets US President George W. Bush in Washington on Monday.

Sharon, meanwhile, delayed by a day until Saturday his weekend departure for the United States, his office said.

Amid international condemnation of the bloodshed, Bush denounced the bus bombing as a "brutal terror attack," while a senior US official who asked not to be named said Washington would urge Israeli restraint.

The Palestinian leadership condemned the bombing and stressed in a statement it had nothing to do with the attack. Palestinian security chiefs ordered the arrest of the Islamic Jihad militants involved.

But Israeli and Palestinian analysts agreed the latest bombing gave Sharon new ammunition in his drive to sideline Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat from the peace process, an option until now resisted by Washington.

Tenet met with Arafat on Tuesday, just hours before the blast, and told him that Sharon would have a "free hand" to retaliate if the bombings continued, a senior Palestinian official said. *AFP*

US tightens registration of security risk visitors

WASHINGTON—Attorney General John Ashcroft on Wednesday launched a new federal registration system, boosting surveillance of visitors to the United States—particularly those who spark an "elevated national security concern."

The three-prong National Security Entry/Exit Registration System is the response from the US Justice Department to a mandate issued by Congress to track "virtually all" of the 35 million foreign visitors who land in the United States annually before 2005, Ashcroft told reporters here.

ASHCROFT

"This system will expand substantially America's scrutiny of those foreign visitors who may pose a national security concern and enter our country, and it will provide a vital line of defense in the war against terrorism," he said, noting laws supporting the system were already contained in federal statutes.

"This system which we speak of today will track approximately 100,000 visitors in the first year," Ashcroft said.

Individual visitors deemed to "fall into categories of elevated national security concern" if they seem to present a "risk of involvement in terrorist activity" will be required to submit to a three-part immigration exercise, or risk arrest.

Such visitors will be fingerprinted and photographed at the border, be required to register "periodically" if they stay in the United States for 30 days or longer, and be subjected to exit controls to "help the Immigration and Naturalization Service remove those aliens who overstay their visas," he said.

Ashcroft reiterated a number of times that such a registration system was commonplace in other countries, particularly in Europe.

The new regulations further cement control of immigration matters in federal hands, though local and state law enforcement will have access to the National Crime Information Center, where thousands of photographs, fingerprints and information about visitors' immigration violations will be stored, he said.

Criteria

Ashcroft refused to be drawn into reporters' questions as to which nationals would be specifically targeted by the new rules, which Arab- and Muslim-American advocates complain are biased.

"The criteria that are used to identify such visitors will be continually upgraded to reflect our evolving intelligence on terrorism and terrorist threats," the attorney general said.

"Those categories are fluid and can be adjusted from time to time to meet new requirements."

A justice official, speaking privately, said visitors who were likely to be particularly targeted by the new registration system were nationals of Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Libya—which, along with North Korea and Cuba make up the US state department's list of state sponsors of terrorism.

But no national of any country is automatically exempt from submitting to the new registration requirements, both the official and Ashcroft stressed.

"I guess it would be safe to say this: There is no country outside the listed state sponsors of terrorism where every person would be the subject of this focus. It would also be safe to say that there is no country where no person would be the subject of this focus."

The new registration system is another weapon in the US war on terrorism, Ashcroft reminded the assembled reporters, a way to battle "(enemy) platoons (that) infiltrate our border, quietly blending in with visitors and tourists and students and workers." *AFP*

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Pull back from war, Bush urges South Asia leaders

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush appealed to Indian and Pakistani leaders on Wednesday to "draw back from war," while the US state department strongly advised Americans in the two nuclear-armed countries to get out.

In back-to-back phone calls to Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, Bush "stressed the need to choose the path of diplomacy," said White House press secretary Ari Fleischer.

Bush told Musharraf the United States expects Pakistan to live up to its anti-terrorism commitments. In his subsequent conversation with Vajpayee, Bush asked India to take "de-escalatory steps," including a de-emphasis on troops amassed along the frontier with Pakistan, Fleischer said.

According to the Pakistani government news agency, Musharraf assured Bush that peaceful resolution of the standoff remains possible and Pakistan "would not initiate" war.

Bush worked the phones on the eve of an emissary's arrival on the subcontinent.

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage planned to meet with officials in Pakistan on Thursday and in India on Friday. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is also en route to the region for meetings in Islamabad and New Delhi.

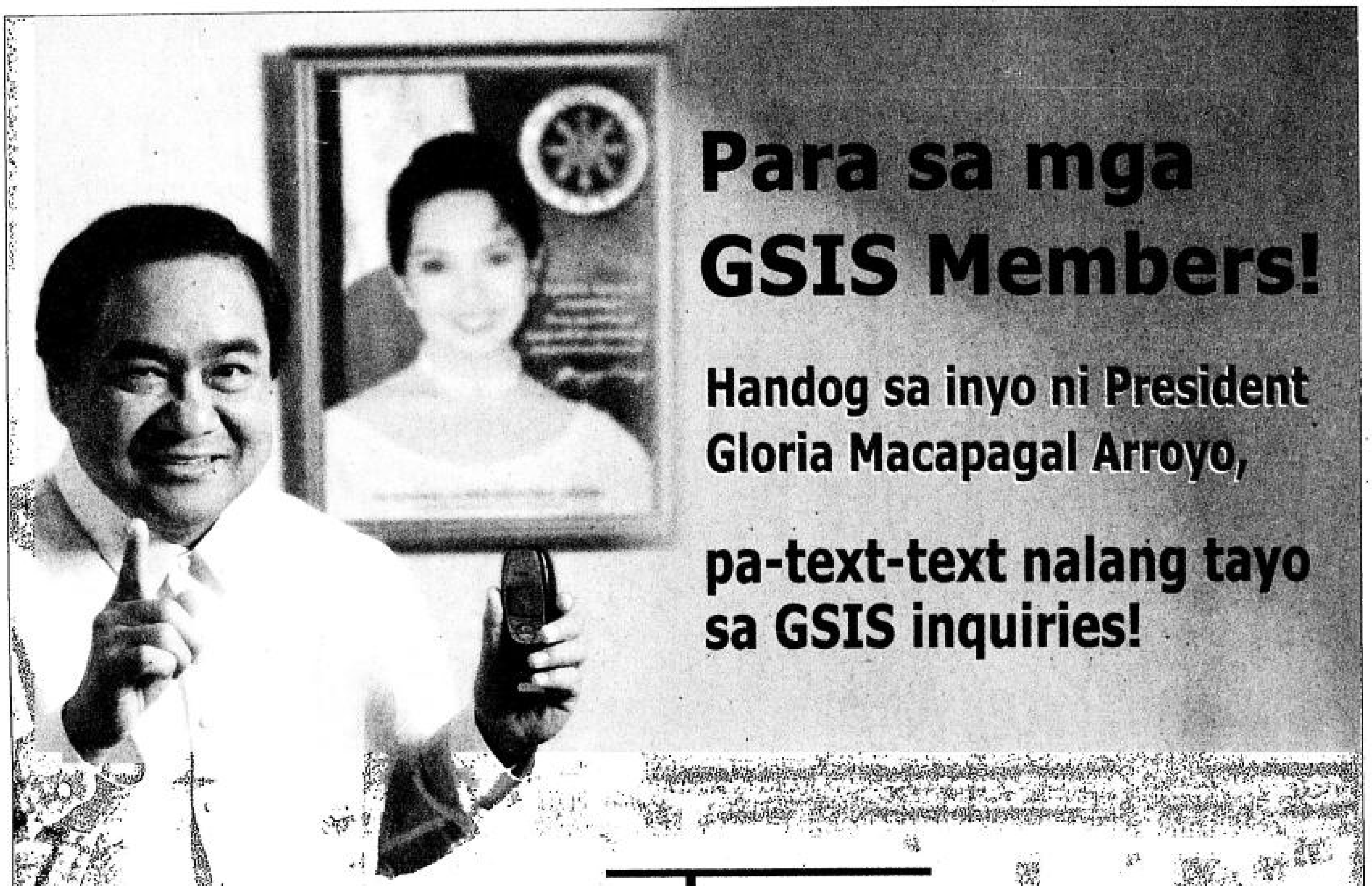
"The stage we are in right now is focused on bringing stability and reducing tensions and helping the nations to draw back from war," Fleischer said. Bush and his envoys aim to get the two sides talking to each other, he said.

Russia and China failed to get Vajpayee and Musharraf into a face-to-face meeting when the two men were in Kazakhstan on Tuesday for an Asia summit.

In its strongest travel warnings since the nuclear rivals assumed a war footing in December, the state department said Wednesday: "Tensions have risen to serious levels and the risk of intensified military hostilities between India and Pakistan cannot be ruled out." *AP*

WOMEN ON THE MARCH AFP

Indonesian women troops march during the military hand-over ceremony in Jakarta June 6. President Megawati Sukarnoputri swore in Lt. Gen. Ryamizard Ryacudu on Tuesday replacing Gen. Endriartono Sutarto, who has been promoted to head the armed forces.



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Einstein raking in millions for Israel school

By Megan Goldin

JERUSALEM—Albert Einstein has been dead for 47 years but he is still raking in millions of dollars for Israel's Hebrew University, the beneficiary of the legendary physicist's documents, letters and "celebrity rights."

The image of the wild-haired professor is instantly recognizable as the German-born genius who rocketed to international stardom for his theories on relativity which revolutionized mankind's understanding of the universe.

So it is not surprising that companies selling everything from computer software to toys vie to use Einstein's name and image in advertising to persuade consumers that purchasing their products would be a smart move.

Before Einstein died in 1955 at the age of 76, the Jewish physicist bequeathed to Jerusalem's Hebrew University 50,000 scientific papers and correspondence as well as intellectual property rights and ownership of his name and image.

The school earned $1.5 million last year alone in licensing fees paid by companies for Einstein-related advertising or by studios that made movies featuring an "Einstein" character.

The university did not provide a figure for the total royalties it has accumulated.

"We won't approve anything that makes Einstein look ridiculous or ludicrous or which harms his image," Ze'ev Rosenkranz, the curator of Hebrew University's Einstein archives, said.

The university rejects more requests than it approves. A liquor company that wanted to produce "Einstein vodka" received a firm "no" and a bagel shop owner in the United States was sued for invoking Einstein's name and image without permission.

It also drew the line at a diaper company and a script for a television commercial that called for an actor playing Einstein to run into the arms of a Marilyn Monroe look-alike on a windy beach.

The royalties fund a travelling exhibition on Einstein and the conservation of some of his documents.

"It is a cultural treasure of immense importance to mankind," said physics professor Hanoch Gutfreund, the university's former president.

Report card

The documents include Einstein's report cards—in his final year of high school he scored 100 percent for mathematics and physics but only just scraped through French—and his scientific papers and letters to relatives and friends.

Einstein also left most of his music collection to the university. A gifted violinist, he was partial to baroque and early classical music, Rosenkranz said.

His papers are stored in a climate-controlled, fireproof basement in Hebrew University's science campus in Jerusalem. The university hopes to put 2,500 scanned documents on its Internet website by September.

Einstein's links to the school go back to 1923 when he gave its first physics lecture on quantum theory at the building site of the fledgling university on Jerusalem's Mount Scopus.

Watching over Einstein's documents, his handwritten physics calculations and correspondence gives curator Rosenkranz a unique insight into the man behind the image.

"He was someone with a strong sense of humanity and a lot of warmth," Rosenkratz said.

Einstein became an overnight sensation in 1919 when his theories of relativity were proven by a British astronomical expedition that studied a solar eclipse of the sun.

The experiment was touted by the media as a competition between Einstein and Sir Isaac Newton, the 17th-century English scientist whose theories of gravity had shaped the world for four centuries.

Days after Einstein's general theory of relativity was upheld, setting the scene for a revolution in science and the humanities, he became a household name as news of his triumph hit the front pages. *Reuters*

Up to 4 million bought and sold in slave trade, says US report

WASHINGTON—The United States said Wednesday that up to four million people had been bought and sold in the 21st century slave trade in the last year, and accused 19 countries of doing to little to stamp it out.

In its annual "Trafficking in Persons" report, the state department added Afghanistan, Armenia, Cambodia, Tajikistan, Iran and the Kyrgyz Republic to a blacklist of states it blames for making insufficient efforts to combat the scourge. The list also includes Russia and Saudi Arabia.

"Every year an estimated 700,000 to four million people around the world are victimized by traffickers through fraud, coercion and outright kidnapping," said Secretary of State Colin Powell.

"The overwhelming majority of victims are women and children.

"Traffickers often force them into pornography and prostitution, subjecting them to terrible mental and physical abuse and putting them at risk from devastating diseases, such as HIV-AIDS."

Sex trade

The report, which includes input from various US government agencies, NGOs and embassies overseas, said that some people are trafficked to supply the international sex trade in prostitution and sex tourism.

Others find themselves working in appalling conditions for low pay in sweatshops, construction or agriculture.

Most of the countries deemed to not be doing enough to combat trafficking are in east and central Asia, southern and eastern Europe and the Middle East.

On the basis of the report, governments in Africa and South America seem to be taking the problem seriously.

The report groups countries in three tiers based on the 89 governments' efforts to combat trafficking, as defined by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act 2000.

Some countries are not included owing to a lack of reliable data.

The law defines trafficking as an offence in which a person is forced, coerced or transported to commit a sex act, or to indulge in forced labor or provision of services.

States in tier three are deemed to be in violation of the Act's minimum standards and not making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.

In this report, they are: Afghanistan, Armenia, Bahrain, Belarus, Bosnia, BUrma, Cambodia, Greece, Indonesia, Iran, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

Sanctions

From 2003, states which remain in tier three will be subject to sanctions including the halting of non-humanitarian and non-trade related assistance, and could also see the United States block aid from world finance bodies.

Several countries placed in tier three last year have moved up, including South Korea, which the report said had made "extraordinary strides" to combat trafficking over the last year and is now in tier one.

Romania, Israel, Albania, Gabon, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Pakistan and Yugoslavia moved up from tier three to tier two, reflecting a judgment that their governments do not fully comply with the Act but are trying to do so, the report said.

States and territories in tier one are deemed to fully comply with the Act's standards, and this year include France, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, South Korea and Colombia.

Governments were assessed on whether they vigorously investigate acts of trafficking, protect victims, and adopt measures to prevent trafficking and cooperate with other countries to cut down on the trade in humans.

They are also held up for scrutiny on the extent to which they extradite traffickers, monitor immigration patterns for evidence of trafficking and prosecute public officials caught in the trafficking trade. *AFP*

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Belfast elects Sinn Fein mayor

BELFAST—The city of Belfast on Wednesday for the first time elected as its mayor a member of the republican Sinn Fein party, the political wing of the IRA, provoking fury among Protestant politicians.

"I am delighted to have made my party the largest party on this council," Sinn Fein's Alex Maskey said after his election by councilors in Belfast City Hall.

"But we are only one of a number of parties in Belfast City Hall and we want to work and have promised to work with all the parties," he added.

Maskey—a Catholic—won 26 votes, while his Protestant rivals Chris McGimpsey of the Ulster Unionist Party and Robin Newton of the Democratic Unionist's won 15 and 10 votes respectively.

Protestant councilors stormed out of the meeting in disgust over the result, although several later returned.

"This is a disgraceful decision, rewarding an organization which has been involved in the destruction of Belfast over the past 30 years," said McGimpsey, referring to the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) long battle against British rule in Northern Ireland.

"What it means for the council is that there is no partnership. Unionists will not be working with Sinn Fein at civic government at the highest level."

Democratic Unionist Nelson McCausland said the vote was a "night of shame" for Belfast.

Northern Ireland's mainly Protestant unionists want to maintain British rule over Northern Ireland, while Catholic republicans want reunification with the Irish republic. *AFP*

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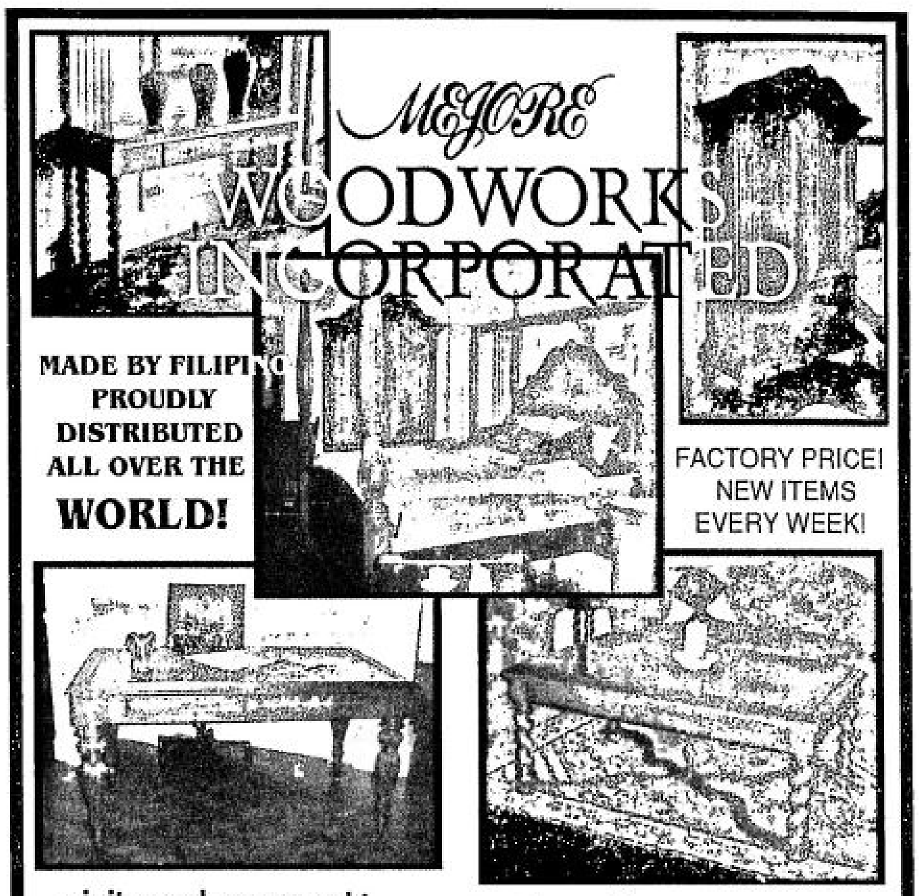

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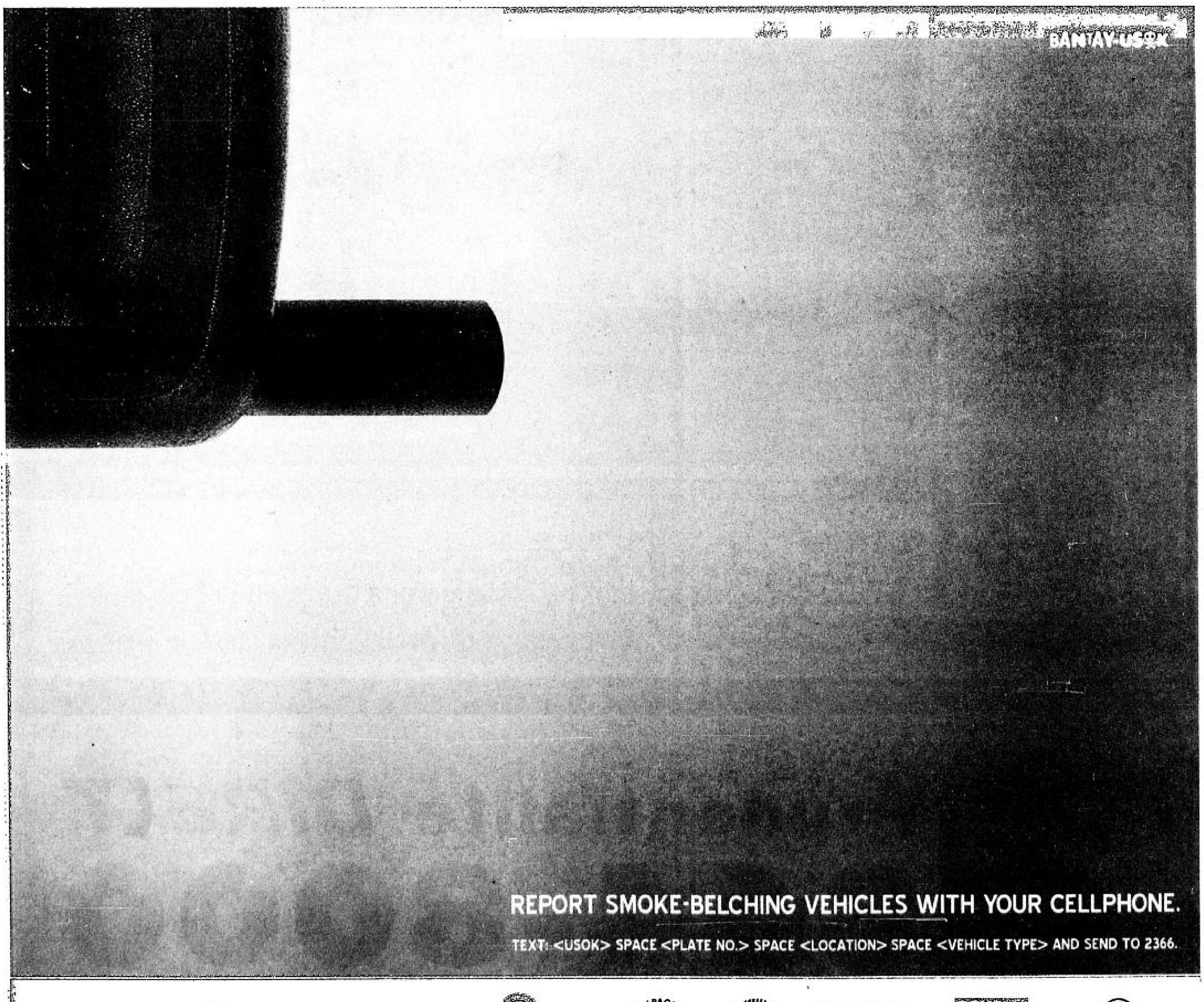

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Boston cardinal questioned in sex abuse case

BOSTON—Lawyers on Wednesday questioned Cardinal Bernard Law, head of the Roman Catholic archdiocese at the center of a child sex scandal, over his handling of a priest accused of repeatedly raping a boy, sometimes in a church confessional.

Law, who leads the Archdiocese of Boston, was the third US bishop in as many days compelled to answer questions about the scandal, which started in January with the trial of a single Massachusetts priest—John Geoghan—and mushroomed into an international crisis for the Church.

Last month Law gave pretrial testimony in a civil action brought against Geoghan by his alleged victims.

Father Christopher Coyne said Cardinal Law, who answered five hours of questions in the case of Father Paul Shanley, cooperated fully and the mood was cordial and professional.

"Cardinal Law answered all the questions posed to him to the best of his ability," Coyne told reporters. "He welcomed the opportunity to explain past policies and actions as well as an opportunity to clarify what he did and why he did it."

Coyne refused to provide details but said Law gave "substantial answers to substantial questions" even though he had trouble remembering some details. He also said Law accepted responsibility for decisions made by subordinates even though he may not have played a role in those decisions.

The deposition was set to resume on Friday and could extend beyond that, lawyers said.

Coyne said Law did not apologize to Rodney and Paula Ford, the parents of Greg Ford, who is suing Law, Manchester, New Hampshire Bishop John McCormack, Shanley and the Catholic Church over alleged rapes.

Rodney and Paula Ford lashed out at Law after the day's questioning, saying the cardinal showed a pattern of ducking responsibility. "When Cardinal Law was climbing the ladder to success to where he has gotten, he blamed everyone above him," Rodney Ford told reporters. "When he got to the top of the ladder he blamed everyone below him."

Reuters

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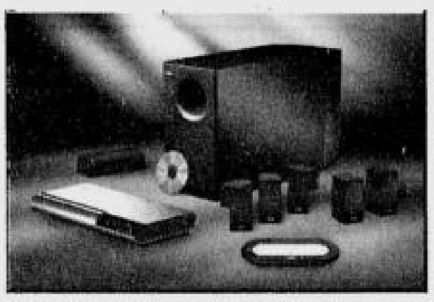
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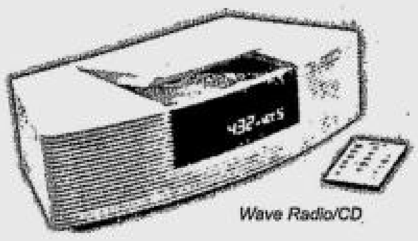
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Nitong mga nakaraang araw, tahimik lamang naming sinusubaybayan ang mga usap-usapan at kuru-kuro ng mga iba't-ibang sector sa ating lipunan patungkol sa mga isyu at pagbatikos sa MERALCO. Subalit sa pagkakataong ito ay minabuti naming iparating sa inyo ang kalungkutang aming nadarama sa kadahilanang ang karangalan ng aming kumpanya at sampu naming mga manggagawa ay natatanong at nalalagay sa alanganin.

Gusto naming ipaalam sa lahat na buo ang aming paniniwala na ang MERALCO ay isang tapat at marangal na kumpanya. Kaya hindi namin lubos na maisip na ang mga paratang na ito ay ibibintang sa aming kumpanya. Sa loob ng halos isang daan taong paglilingkod, masigasig at buong tapat na ginagampanan ng MERALCO ang kanyang pinikamimithing tungkulin na makapagbigay ng mahusay at maaasahang serbisyo sa sambayanan.

Sa kabila ng lahat, kaming mga MANGGAGAWA NG MERALCO ay taas-noong ipinahahayag na:

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-Patuloy kaming nagbubuklod-buklod at nagkakaisa upang lalo naming maisagawa ng buong katapatan ang aming dakilang tungkulin na magbigay ng mahusay na serbisyo, anumang oras (araw man o' gabi) at anumang kalagayan ng panahon (tag-init man o' tag-ulan, baha man o' bagyo).

Kaya nakikiusap kami sa inyong lahat na tayo ay magpakahinahon at ating ipaubaya sa legal at makatarungang pamamaraan ang mga usaping ito at sana huwag po tayong padala sa bugso ng ating damdamin.

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GMA orders more soldiers sent to Bicol vs rebels, criminals

NAGA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday ordered more soldiers sent to the Bicol region to fight communist rebels and criminal groups.

She gave the order during the joint Regional Development Council (RDC), Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) and 7th Regional Cabinet Meeting here.

Ricardo Saludes, Presidential Management Staff secretary, said the order was Ms Arroyo's immediate reaction to a military report by the Southern Luzon Command that lack of manpower was hampering its counter-insurgency campaign.

Saludes said that soldiers for deployment to the Bicol and Southern Tagalog regions will consist of Army personnel pulled out from their assignments in Mindanao.

He said that the President warned that local governments that are soft with the New People's Army will not get support from her.

"There is a clear policy here of pressing the local government units to take a stand very clearly for law and order and duly constituted authority," Saludes said.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang, Bicol regional police chief, said in the Bicol region there are five communist provincial party committees that operate in 12 guerrilla fronts and three other platoon size guerrilla units.

Galang said that 674 regular NPA members operate in the region.

The number is 18 percent less than the estimated number of communist rebels last year.

He said the rebels lost 42 firearms.

He said 73 barangays in Bicol are under the influence of the communist rebels while 209 others are classified as NPA infiltrated.

Saludes said that the Bicol region, ranked as the second poorest region in the country after the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), needs immediate national government support for its development.

President Macapagal-Arroyo directed her Cabinet to release all funds intended for the region to fast track all development projects within the next six weeks.

"I do not have the total of how much all the various funding (is needed) but it is obviously a very big amount and it applies to all projects for the region," Saludes said.

Among them are road networks to serve the port facilities in Catanduanes and Camarines Sur provinces.

Saludes said Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong pledged that the Takawayan-Calauag portion of Quirino Highway would be completed by the end of June.

Alfonso Cosy, administrator of the Philippine Ports Authority, gave assurances that the funding of the Pantao Regional Port will be made available in the next three years.

"There is P50 million allotted this year and the additional funding of about P300 million will be made available in the next two years in order to complete the Pantao Regional Port before the end of 2004," Saludes said.

He said the President recognized the need for support from communities for mining investments.

Saludes said the RDC called for more action to facilitate the flow of funds into the region as host of two major generating power facilities.

He said Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. has pledged to reduce the amount of time spent on signatures and procedures for the release of royalty from power generation.

He said the DOE has cut the 89-day procedure to a maximum of 42 days. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

NPA denies it is fielding bets for village polls

BOSTON, Davao Oriental—The New People's Army (NPA) here denied reports that it was fielding candidates for the July 15 synchronized barangay and youth elections.

Earlier, military and police officials said the rebels wanted to increase their areas of influence by putting up their own people in the villages through elections.

But Biomabok Kaabyawan, spokesperson of the Antonio Nerio Antao Command here, said the NPA was steadfast in its position against elections as a tool for achieving its objectives.

"We don't participate in the electoral processes. We don't recognize it to be legitimate in the first place," the NPA spokesperson said in the vernacular.

Kaabyawan, however, said that although no NPA candidate will be running on July 15, the rebel group would be supporting candidates who are considered as progressive or those whose ideals are similar to the communists.

"But we may support progressive candidates just like in the past elections," Kaabyawan said.

Asked whether supporting candidates is participation in elections itself, Kaabyawan said the acts were different.

"Supporting progressive candidates is different from fielding our own candidates in the election," he said without elaborating.

But he said the NPA would not coerce candidates that are not supportive of the rebel group.

Supt. Catalino Cuy, provincial police director, said the NPA's denial had contradicted reports filed by barangay officials themselves.

"Barangay officials in the province have told me that they are being threatened by the NPA rebels if they will not drop their reelection bids in favor of the candidates to be fielded by the communist rebels," Cuy told the INQUIRER.

He cited the case of Silverio Alimbon, 40, chair of Barangay Don Leon Balante in Caraga town, whom the rebels allegedly executed for refusing to give way to an NPA candidate. ***Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Airport projects to push through

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications on Wednesday assured the public that the expansion and improvement of six Mindanao airports will push through even as it denied reports that the project may have to be cancelled.

Transportation Assistant Secretary Alan Tan, chair of the Third Airports Development Project, has assured the Asian Development Bank that the government has practically completed all the requirements needed for the start of the project as scheduled.

"Our assessment reveals that the sites required for the civil works construction are available and civil works can commence in October 2002," Tan said in a letter to Patrick Giraud, director of the ADB's Transportation and Communication Infrastructure, Energy and Financial Services Department.

The airports are located in Pagadian, Butuan, Cotabato and Sanga-Sanga in Mindanao and Puerto Princesa in Palawan.

Tan was answering a letter Giraud had earlier written the DOTC, expressing the ADB's concern about the alleged failure of the DOTC to acquire the land necessary for the expansion of the airports.

However, Tan said that 97 percent of the land required to commence construction of the improved airport facilities are already "in the control of the government" through deeds of absolute sale.

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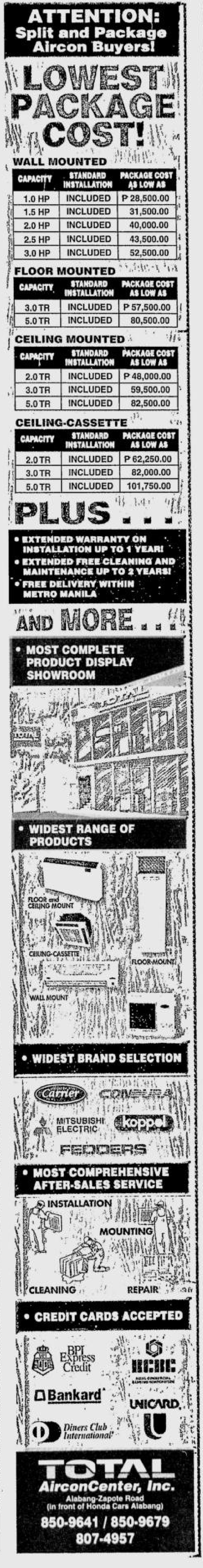
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An Open Letter to H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Respond with Faith in Your People.

Madame President, our determined efforts to help ensure that only those competent, morally upright and dedicated public servants are appointed as high officials in government have paid off. **For the fifth time, the confirmation of DOTC Secretary Designate Pantaleon D. Alvarez has been by-passed by the Commission on Appointments.**

However, instead of being inspired by this important development, we are greatly dismayed and terribly disappointed. No sooner than the announcement of the by-pass of the confirmation was made, your Presidential Spokesperson immediately declared, that, on the basis of your continued trust in him, Mr. Alvarez would be re-appointed.

Madame President, what other proof would you need to show that Mr. Alvarez is not fit to be your DOTC Secretary because he lacks the moral courage and integrity required of a public office?

We have established that Mr. Alvarez, who is a ***kumpadre*** of Jeffrey Cheng, had unjustly favored PIATCO in the award of NAIA IPT 3 project. This intimate relationship is a material fact that he failed to disclose **when he was Chairman of the PBAC Technical Working Committee. This is indicative of a flawed character that is unmistakably dishonest.**

We have also shown that Mr. Alvarez, as Congressman, accepted and benefited from a 300-million peso subcontract from PIATCO, through his family-owned company — **Wintrack Builders, Inc.** — for subterranean works in NAIA IPT 3. At that time, the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement (ARCA) on the BOT project was under investigation by the House Committee on Transportation where he sat as Vice Chairman.

While arguably not illegal, this conduct is offensive to moral propriety, since Mr. Alvarez deliberately subordinated and compromised the public good over his own narrow self-interest — a BIG NO-NO in public service! Worse, evidence now under consideration by the Commission on Audit (COA), points out that Wintrack, under the direction of Mr. Alvarez, cheated the government by at least P76 million.

Mr. Alvarez distorts the truth by asserting that the Ombudsman cleared him of the charge of plunder arising from the Wintrack sub-contract. **In fact, the case was merely dismissed, without prejudice, to await the audit report of COA.**

He even lied to you five times, when, as you claimed, he told you that ARCA did not prevent the development of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA). A few months later, he reversed himself, unabashedly so, in order to win support for his confirmation as DOTC Secretary — a job he desperately wants to keep.

Now, Mr. Alvarez refuses to initiate changes in ARCA. He is supposed to protect the interest of government and our people, but he readily accepts amendments for the benefit of PIATCO. **This even compelled you to task Secretary Gloria Tan-Climaco to review the ARCA and the NAIA IPT 3 project, without the involvement and participation of your DOTC Secretary who clearly cannot be trusted on this matter.**

Madame President, all these incontrovertible facts, which have not been satisfactorily addressed, undoubtedly establish one clear point: **Mr. Alvarez is not trustworthy!** And we are disheartened to know that you intend to re-appoint him as DOTC Secretary. Isn't the strong message conveyed by his non-confirmation for the fifth time clear enough? **REPLACE HIM!**

Madame President, we continue to trust and support you.
We have been faithful in our duty to help you weed out undesirable officials in government.
We hope that you will respond with equal faith in us — and our people —
by heeding this urgent appeal:

Do not reappoint Secretary Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

Rescind the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement, because it is illegal, onerous and disadvantageous to government.

Renegotiate for better terms to save the NAIA IPT 3 Project.

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Former Chairman, Securities & Exchange Commission

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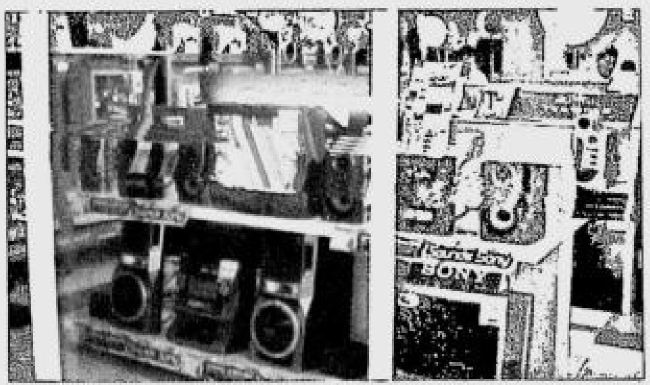
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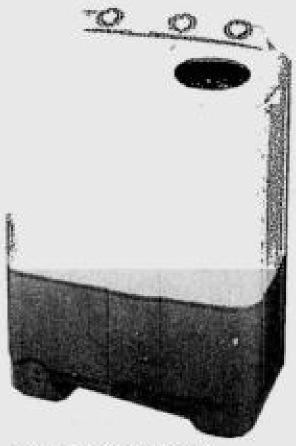

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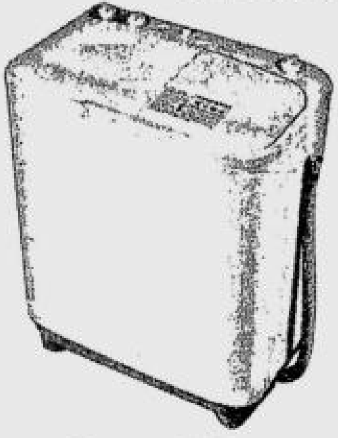

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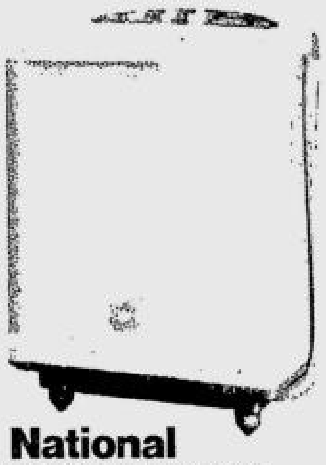

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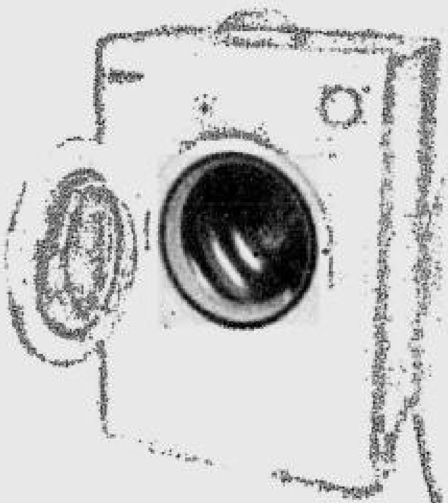

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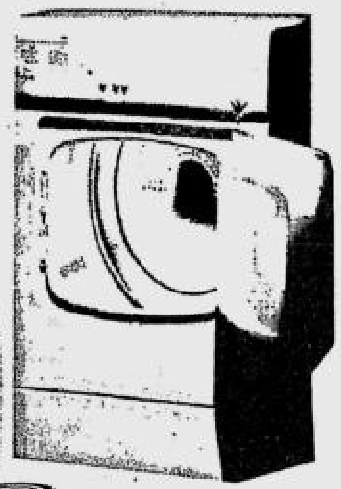

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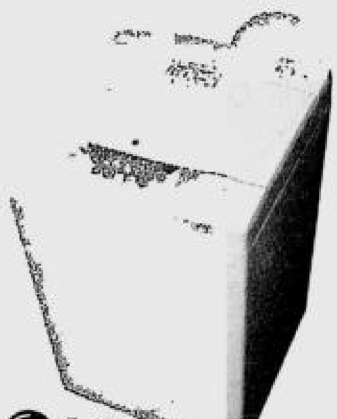

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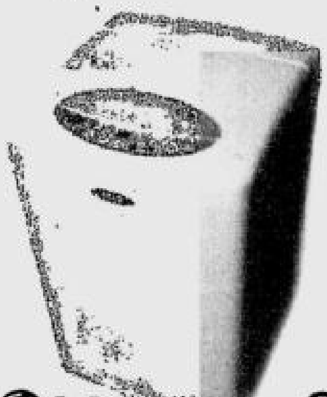

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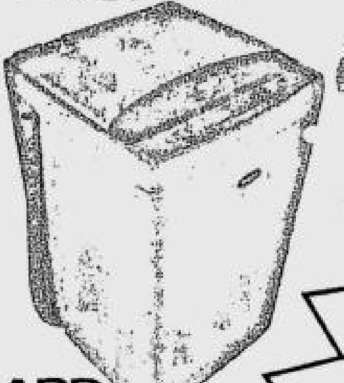

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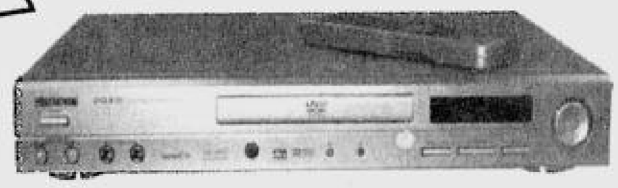

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Court bars Erap from going to US

From page A1

this purpose. Worse, he has repeatedly stated his loss of confidence in the entire judicial system."

The court said that because of the ex-President's earlier tirades against the justice system, mainly the Sandiganbayan, "made no less than in open court, it will not be completely unexpected if the temporarily free (Estrada) decides to permanently take flight from this jurisdiction with the justification that, anyway, justice cannot be had this side of the planet."

Acting Presiding Justice Minita Nazario, chair of the special court, and members Edilberto Sandoval and Teresita Leonardo-De Castro signed the resolution.

'Romantic notions'

Lawyer Rene Saguisag, who authored Estrada's request to travel, said the man's age, physical condition and prominence did not "encourage romantic notions of flight."

In its ruling, the court accepted that Estrada, 65, had been suffering osteoarthritis in both knees since 1998, a crippling but "not life-threatening" ailment that may be remedied through surgery.

It took note of the findings and recommendations made by Estrada's attending physicians at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, where he has been detained with his co-accused son Jinggoy since April 2001.

"But he miserably failed to show the necessity of (the surgery) being done abroad," the court said, noting that both Estrada's doctors and those presented by prosecutors had agreed that Filipino surgeons could competently operate on the ex-President's knees in select local hospitals.

Estrada wanted a California-based bone surgeon, Dr. Christopher Mow, to perform total joint replacement surgery at the Stanford University Medical Center.

It was a bid he initiated through his original defense lawyers whom he later dismissed in protest over the court's alleged bias against him and his family. A set of court-appointed lawyers has been defending him since March.

Saguisag, a member of Estrada's original defense panel, said "a just and humane ruling" could still be had if the matter would be elevated to the Supreme Court. But Estrada spokesperson Raymond Fortun said his principal was not likely to appeal.

"It has been said that one who is merely just is severe," said Saguisag, a former senator. "Indeed, the preamble of our Constitution speaks of a 'just and humane society.' Nothing in the ruling reflects this Christian spirit in relation to one punished far beyond what any court can impose."

Ninoy

Point by point, the court addressed the arguments raised by Estrada, including the supposed parallelism between his plight and that of the murdered opposition leader Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

Estrada had pointed out that Aquino was already a convicted martial law prisoner when the then strongman Ferdinand Marcos allowed him to undergo heart surgery in the United States.

But the court noted that Aquino's ailment then was life-threatening, unlike Estrada's.

Also, it said, "the decision to give (Aquino) temporary liberty was made by a former president who appeared to be the law unto himself, (having) both executive and legislative powers . . ."

"The court is not similarly situated as it must always look within the context of the law," it added.

The court also said that "unfortunately, there is no law or jurisprudence that can justify (Estrada's) temporary release from detention so that he can travel abroad for treatment that can be done in the Philippines."

It said that in earlier rulings, the Supreme Court denied similar travel requests, including that made by Marcos' widow Imelda in 1995.

The court said that while Estrada had anchored his argument on the fact that he was still "presumed innocent," this was "diluted by the fact that (he) is charged with grave felonies one of which (plunder) is punishable by reclusion perpetua or death."

"Such a claim or argument would have been redoubtable had he been charged civilly or administratively or even criminally but with light or less grave offenses," it said.

Earlier, the prosecution said allowing Estrada to travel would be tantamount to granting him bail—something which he had so far not applied for.

Long-distance runner

Fortun, also a member of Estrada's original defense team, said the ruling was based on a mere "speculation" that the ousted leader would escape.

"But can't security measures be arranged?" Fortun said in a radio interview. "Isn't it that he's going there with ailing knees? What is he, a sprinter or a long-distance runner?"

In the statement prepared by the PMP, Estrada said he had been expecting such a ruling from the court, as this was "a form of persecution . . . one way of justifying Ms Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's hold on power."

"I have prepared myself for the verdict of 'guilty' and prepared myself for all kinds of persecution under this regime," he said.

Estrada criticized the court for "ignoring (my) pre-condition before being allowed to seek medical treatment abroad—that the government must first issue a guarantee that (I) would be allowed back after the operation."

The ousted President has repeatedly denied plans to escape and has rejected offers of exile from the Macapagal administration.

Divided Senate alarms bishops, businessmen

From page A1

concerned. There is no excuse for it (the circus) when everyone is working hard for the economy," MBC executive director Bill Luz told reporters.

"It's sad to see others working hard and you see individuals more interested in their personal political agenda. It's disgusting. It's pathetic," Luz charged. The MBC counts some 450 companies as members, including some of the country's biggest.

The Senate "must get its priorities right," Luz added. "When there are senators who make their own rules, there's something wrong there. There are better, more important priorities to attend to."

"The Senate is a distinguished part of government. A deeply divided Senate can cripple the progress of our nation," Coronel said in a statement.

'Dangerous hiatus'

At about noon yesterday, Sen. Blas Ople declared the Senate adjourned sine die, saying the reorganization of the upper chamber last Monday upheld the independence of the Senate and the rule of law.

In his closing remarks, Ople hailed his colleagues in the opposition for helping him avoid an "unconscionable disruption—dangerous hiatus—in the continuity of the Senate's existence."

He said that the continuity enabled the Senate to pass important measures, such as the Absentee Voting Bill, one of the few bills certified as urgent by the President. He also said that by adhering to the real date of adjournment as stipulated in the legislative calendar, the new majority upheld the law governing Congress.

Ople also accused Senate President Franklin Drilon of being remiss in his duties by refusing to attend the sessions.

"We have made up for an inept leadership in the Senate," Ople said.

Ople insisted that the Senate controversy was not the opposition's own making but Drilon's.

He said that on June 3, the Senate minority caucus sent two emissaries, Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Edgardo Angara, to inform Drilon that they had amassed 12 votes, sufficient to effect a reorganization of the Senate's standing committees.

The two emissaries asked Drilon to open the session at 3 p.m. as scheduled, but after meeting with senators allied with him, Drilon refused to go down to the session hall. "The sole intent of this session was to prevent the new democratic majority from reorganizing the Senate," Ople said.

Angara said the Senate reorganization was a result of the poor work of the previous majority and its degeneration into an "adjunct of Malacañang."

"This week has been a defining week for us here, because it will rouse a slumbering and compromised Senate. We are committed to making the Senate work for our nation," he added.

Rump sessions

But in a press briefing Drilon chaired, administration senators belittled whatever gains were made by the opposition in four days of "rump sessions."

They assailed the passage of a "flawed" absentee voting bill. "For example, nothing is provided as to how a seaman who is aboard a vessel would vote. The process of protecting the sanctity of the ballot is uncertain," Drilon said.

Sen. Joker Arroyo lambasted the opposition for passing resolutions that affected even the support staff in the Senate. "It's unfair. We are the ones quarreling, not the support staff. Now, they have the gall to inform Land Bank that no checks will be honored if it is not signed by (those they designate) to sign?"

But a Senate resolution passed the other day, ordering the Land Bank of the Philippines not to honor Drilon's signature without that of his co-signatory, "new majority leader" Pimentel, has not yet reached the bank, contrary to what opposition leader Angara told reporters.

Bank senior vice president Rodrigo Supena said that as of 3:30 p.m. Thursday, the bank had "not received anything from the Senate regarding changes in any signatories or any resolution."

In any case, Supena said, the bank would normally continue to disburse the salaries of Senate personnel despite a leadership dispute.

Drilon issued another memo yesterday, reiterating that the "rump" session held by the opposition was "illegal and violative of the Senate rules."

"All acts emanating therefrom are therefore invalid," he told Senate employees.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the rush to pass bills and resolutions was "a political blunder."

"The public does not support what they did and they are trying to salvage the situation by passing popular bills which are, to begin with, invalid because the session that they conducted was illegal," Pangilinan said.

Arroyo said the opposition was only out to grab the limelight in the Senate because of an "unrestrained ambition to become President."

Asked who among the opposition was angling to become the next President, Arroyo answered with a wry smile: "We all know who we are talking about."

Tiring spectacle

In the House of Representatives, two congressmen moved to have the Senate abolished. Davao del Norte Rep. Antonio Floirendo Jr. said abolition would be a "cure to the tiring spectacle of revolving-door Senate leaderships."

"The publics' patience would no longer be taxed by the periodic "rigodon" in the Senate which grinds to a halt the business of an important branch of the government," Floirendo said.

Biliran Rep. Gerardo Espina Jr. said the current crisis would have been avoided if the country had a unicameral system. He pushed for the amendment of the Constitution that would see the retention of the presidential system but with a single legislative chamber and with majority of the members of the Cabinet coming from the legislature.

Meanwhile, Speaker Jose de Venecia and other majority leaders took the minority bloc to task for holding their own "rump sessions."

"Perhaps the only justification I could see is that they were trying to provide tactical support for their colleagues in the Senate," De Venecia said.

But minority congressmen, whom administration congressmen have called the "Martilyo Gang" for using a rusty hammer, in place of a gavel, hit back at the majority, calling it the "Kandado Gang." Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said the "Kandado Gang" had locked the doors of the session hall. ***With reports from Christine Avendaño, Rocky Nazareno, and Elena Torrijos***

IMBESTIGAHAN SI RAMOS SI CAYETANO PPA
ADJOURNMENT SA SENADO COVER UP SA PPA PMAP/KMB
ADJOURNMENT NG SESSION COVER UP PPA
ADJOURNMENT SA SENADO COVER UP PPA!

MILITANT groups suspect the Senate power play and the high electricity bills are interrelated. ERIK ARAZAZ

Opposition invited to Palace photo op

By Carlito Pablo

BUT are they coming at all?

Malacañang has invited six opposition senators to witness today's signing into law of four bills the six co-authored with administration lawmakers.

Invited to the Palace were senators Vicente Sotto, Luisa Ejercito, Sergio Osmeña III, Gregorio Honasan, Rodolfo Biazon and John Osmena—whose defection to the opposition caused the ongoing turmoil in the Senate.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is scheduled at 1:30 p.m. to sign into law the amendments to the Dangerous Drugs Act, the Plant Variety Registration and Protection Act, the salary increase for members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the establishment of the Film Council of the Philippines.

Secretary Gabriel Claudio, presidential adviser for legislative affairs, said the invitations were coursed through Senate President Franklin Drilon in accordance with existing protocol procedures.

"It's not a matter whether they are opposition or administration senators," Claudio said. "What matters (in such signing ceremonies) is who are the principal authors and sponsors of the bills concerned."

As far as Claudio is concerned, today's ceremonies will "really be more of the signing itself and the photo opportunity."

"We don't expect it to be any different from previous signing ceremonies," he added.

NBI traces Ping's $1-M deposit in US bank

From page A1

Bank of California," said the NBI official, who asked not to be named. "This is confirmed 100 percent. But don't quote me. We will come out with the details later."

Should Lacson deny that he maintains dollar accounts in the United States, the NBI official said: "Then we will force Equitable PCI Bank to produce these bank transactions."

Plunder case

Asked about the implications of the disclosure, the official said: "Well, (it could be a ground) for the filing of a plunder case. It's a million dollars . . . fifty million pesos."

The NBI official made the disclosure after Justice Secretary Hernando Perez refused yesterday to divulge the contents of a report sent by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the US Department of Justice.

The FBI report confirms that Lacson maintains three to four bank accounts in the United States. The two-inch thick report consisted of bank transactions, facsimiles of bank records and checks.

Perez said at a press conference that he could not comment on the report pending an examination to be conducted by a panel of investigators from the NBI Legal Division and the Anti-Fraud Division, and experts from private banks.

Pressed for details, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, who was present at the press conference, told reporters that the report confirmed the existence of three to four accounts.

"But I think this is just the tip of the iceberg. This is just the first batch of evidence from the FBI. We are expecting more."

Without going into details, Wycoco said the three to four accounts were worth more than $700,000.

He dared Lacson to fulfill his promise to go "directly to jail" if investigators found any account abroad containing a large amount.

Active account

Of the accounts, at least one is still active. It is registered under the name of Lacson's wife Alice.

"As of December 2001, the account is still active," said Wycoco who revealed that initial examination of the evidence submitted by the FBI showed that Alice issued three checks in May, June and December 2001.

One was worth $246,000. The other two checks were worth $50,000 and $5,000, respectively.

"They were all drawn from her account with Bank of America in California," said Wycoco. "The $50,000 was used to buy a Toyota car."

The NBI chief said the Lacson couple used a conduit bank in Hong Kong—Hong Kong Shanghai Bank—to transact with Bank of America.

Asked if the other accounts belonged to Lacson himself, he said: "Maybe. But we have yet to examine the bank records provided by the FBI. Please give us time to evaluate them."

"Of the four accounts, it is already clear that Alice owns one of them. But it is not possible that Alice holds all the accounts," Wycoco said. Under Philippine laws, a married couple has conjugal assets, according to the NBI chief.

Propaganda

As expected, Lacson dismissed as propaganda from his detractors the reported confirmation of his dollar accounts by the FBI.

Lacson said over the Cebu City-based radio station dyLA that the report came after three Senate committees released their "findings" on his alleged involvement in kidnapping and drug trafficking and after the reappearance of alleged witnesses in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case.

He said the alleged FBI report on his dollar accounts was "true and not true."

It was true that he had three or four accounts in the United States, according to Lacson. But these accounts were no longer active, he said.

Lacson questioned why Wycoco did not produce the alleged FBI report but merely released the video footage. "Where is the report?" he asked.

"Wala naman silang report na pinapakita, preview lang eh. Kaya pinapainit nila, parang sinu-suspense nila iyong mga nanood na ito iyong video clip, pero bukas ina-announce namin iyong report," Lacson said.

He said the report was nothing new because he volunteered the existence of this account during his privileged speech last year.

He maintained that his wife Alice and her business partner had opened an account containing $200,000.

Half of the money belonged to his wife and the other to a business partner. But the account had been closed after the joint venture did not push through, Lacson said.

Perjury

Wycoco said Lacson faced perjury and anti-graft charges for not putting in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities (SALs) that he had dollar bank accounts in the United States.

"It looks like there is (enough) evidence to file charges of perjury and for (the violation of the) Anti-Graft (and Corrupt Practices Act)," Wycoco said.

"In his 2001 SAL, his dealared net worth was P19 million plus. Definitely, the dollar accounts were not included," he said. Lacson declared a net worth of P1.7 million in 1996.

Wycoco said that even when the accounts were in Alice's name, Lacson should have mentioned them in his SAL, as required by law.

"They were not mentioned in any of his SALs. That is the initial violation," he said.

But he declined to say when Lacson would be charged, adding that the NBI is still "evaluating and validating" the documentary evidence the FBI had submitted.

"Our orders (from the Senate) are to continue investigating the case and to prosecute if the evidence warrants," the NBI chief said.

Wycoco said the NBI would submit its findings to the Senate committees on public order and illegal drugs and on national defense, and the blue ribbon committee.

Wycoco belied Lacson's claim that the DOJ's move to prosecute him for money laundering was a form of political persecution.

He said that as early as April 18 last year, the FBI came up with an initial report confirming the existence of two Lacson accounts with Wells Fargo and Bank of America in California.

"But we did not release it to the media because of the May (2001) elections. We don't want this to be a political thing. We disclosed the existence of the FBI report after Lacson started attacking us," the NBI chief said.

Chinese kidnap victims

"What we are saying is that it was never a political thing, a persecution thing. It was brought about by the complaints of some victims of kidnapping," he said.

Wycoco said that he sought the help of the FBI after relatives of six Chinese nationals came to his office to seek justice for the kidnapping and killing of their kin.

"These were the six Chinese who were kidnapped—Wong Kam Chong and company. And the relatives had alleged that despite paying ransom, the Chinese were all murdered," he said.

"So we decided to trace the money trail to find out who got the money.' The relatives of the victims have accused former officials of the disbanded Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force as masterminds of the kidnapping," Wycoco said.

Perez said the FBI furnished the Philippine government, through the Department of Justice, with a list of Lacson's bank accounts in the United States as "requested by the NBI pursuant to the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with the US ."

The justice secretary said the "materials" were received officially by the DOJ on June 3.

Sonny O: From Judas to Pope

From page A1

—a council of cardinals over which the Pope presides. But his details show that he must have meant a "conclave," the council where cardinals elect a new Pope.

Opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the suggestion was good, but he doubted whether it would work. "It is a good suggestion but the problem is we are not cardinals. Only a few of us pray," Pimentel said.

Under Osmeña's proposal, senators will be liberated from party considerations and will be guided only by their conscience in voting for a new Senate president. He said each senator would cast a ballot containing the name of any of the 24 senators. The one who gets 16 votes would be elected Senate president.

Repeated balloting should take place until one senator obtains 16 votes. The same process will be followed for the president pro tempore and the committee chairs.

"There should be no nomination. A member is free to name anyone who he or she feels is best qualified," Osmeña said. With partisan lines erased, Osmeña said, no majority leader will be elected but only a floor leader.

No intention

In his press briefing, Osmeña managed to sound both contrite and defiant. "I never intended the defection to change the leadership of the Senate. But both sides became belligerent so it has come to this," he said. He admitted that the chaos in the Senate had created a backlash. "None of us are gaining from that backlash," Osmeña said.

He stressed, however, that he did not regret his decision. He stressed that he did not actually join the opposition but simply asserted his independence as a senator.

He also insisted that he did not bolt the administration party, because he was never part of it in the first place.

According to Osmeña, he was asked by Senate President Franklin Drilon to join the administration coalition in the Senate to help approve certain important bills that were certified as urgent by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said he had long wanted to bolt the coalition and found the chance only last week. "I stated openly that I will still support vital legislation in the Senate, particularly the one removing the Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA) charge," he said.

"I will not be in the opposition for the purpose of opposing," he added.

Osmeña said he was saddened by the division in the Senate, something which he said he has never seen. He noted the senators no longer had coffee together.

In a press briefing he held with other administration senators later in the day, Drilon shot down Osmeña's proposal to elect new Senate officials.

"There is no vacancy in those positions," Drilon said. He underscored that under Rule 2, Section 2 of the Senate Rules, "the officers of the Senate shall be elected by the majority vote of all its members."

"I do appreciate the effort of Sen. Osmeña but, as I said, the Office of the Senate President is not vacant and is in fact acknowledged by the opposition," he said.

Arbitration committee

Drilon reiterated Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste's proposal to form an arbitration committee, consisting of a representative each from the administration and opposition and a third member as chair who is an "expert in law, politics and the Constitution."

But Osmeña said he could not think of anyone who can mediate the crisis, except maybe Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal. He said Jaime Cardinal Sin, former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino and even Chief Justice Hilario Davide were partisan.

Pimentel, for his part, said the senators could talk on their own without need for any mediator. In fact, he said, negotiations between the two groups were ongoing. He refused to give details, however, fearing that media might spoil their possible dialogue.

Drilon assured the public that the Senate impasse would be resolved by the time the 12th Congress resumes on July 22.

"This is something that we must do step by step. Don't be impatient," he told reporters.

Drilon borrowed the language of Osmeña, saying the process of reconciling both sides in the Senate crisis were so delicate that he likened it to the election of a new Pope.

"We may have to build a chimney here and wait for the white smoke," he said. ***With reports from Rocky Nazareno and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Top Rotary awards go to PDI journalists

From page A1

anniversary as a sultanate.

Frank Cimatu of the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau was second for his "Thomasites in Baguio: Good Morning, Merry Sunshine," (Sept. 5, 2001), a story about the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Thomasites in the country and how the American teachers contributed to the development of Baguio City and the rest of Northern Luzon.

Baldemor

Mustafa received P50,000 in cash and a trophy during awarding ceremonies last night at the Manila Hotel. The trophy was a sculpture by Angelito Baldemor, one of Paete, Laguna's, famed sculptors.

Cimatu received P30,000.

"This is the Rotary Club of Manila's way of contributing to the development of journalism in the country and nation building in general," Rotarian Ching Salazar said.

"This is an annual event and this has been going on for 20 years already."

Aside from recognizing the top cultural development stories, the Rotary Club gave awards to science and technology writers through the Gawad Agham.

Alex Pal of the PDI Visayas Bureau was second honorable mention in this category for his "Quasimodo's Search: Sea Turtle's Ordeal in the Hands of Men" (July 7, 2001).

Quasimodo is a baby turtle with a deformity being studied by scientists at the Silliman University Marine Laboratory in Dumaguete City. The article stresses the need for protection of turtles from poachers in Philippine seas.

Rodel Offemaria of Mr. and Ms. Magazine was first place for his story on controlling fruit flies in mango producing province of Guimaras in the Visayas.

BusinessWorld's Veronica Silva and Philippine Panorama Magazine's Thor Orig won second and third place respectively.

Another INQUIRER correspondent, Anselmo Roque, was first honorable mention for a story that appeared in Pahayagan ng Bayan. His "Breakthroughs that Spell More Food, Income" was about how to address the rice shortage in the country.

The articles were judged by journalism professionals and members of the academe, including Dr. Paz Diaz of the UP College of Mass Communication.

Sick

Mustafa, the INQUIRER correspondent for Sulu, was indisposed and was not able to attend last night's awards ceremony.

Isagani Yambot, publisher of the Philippine Daily Inquirer who accepted the award on behalf of Mustafa, said he first took note of the writing of Noralyn about two or three years ago in the Across the Nation section of the INQUIRER.

"She has an uncommon style—you may call it a literary style—of writing. That's not common among reporters and correspondents who tend to adopt a cut-and-dried, formulaic style of writing," Yambot said. "So, I am not surprised that Noralyn has won First Place in the Rotary Club of Manila Journalism Awards."

Yambot took the occasion to pay tribute to the correspondents of the INQUIRER in particular and to newspaper correspondents in general.

"The correspondents are among the unsung heroes of the newspaper profession. Very often it is the name reporters who get all the glamour. The correspondents in the provinces work in obscurity, sometimes in anonymity. And yet it is the correspondents who often write the big stories that emanate from the provinces, and indeed, from all parts of the country," he said.

"The INQUIRER's strong 80-person corps of correspondents is one of the reasons for its comprehensive and extensive news coverage. So tonight I salute Noralyn Mustafa, Frank Cimatu, Alex Pal, and Anselmo Roque and their colleagues for a job well done," he said. ***With a report from Norman Bordadora***

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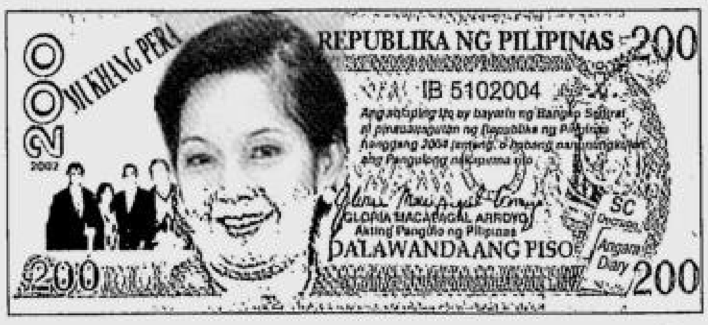

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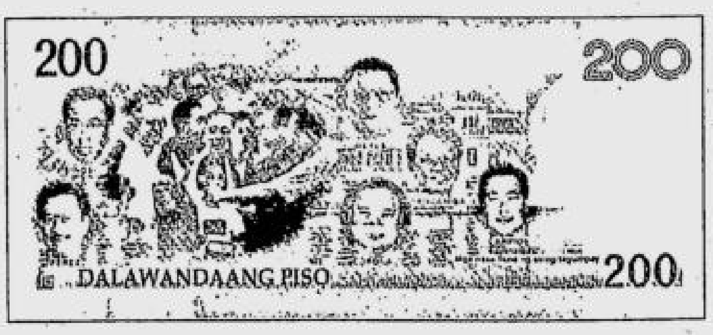

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SPORTS

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SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

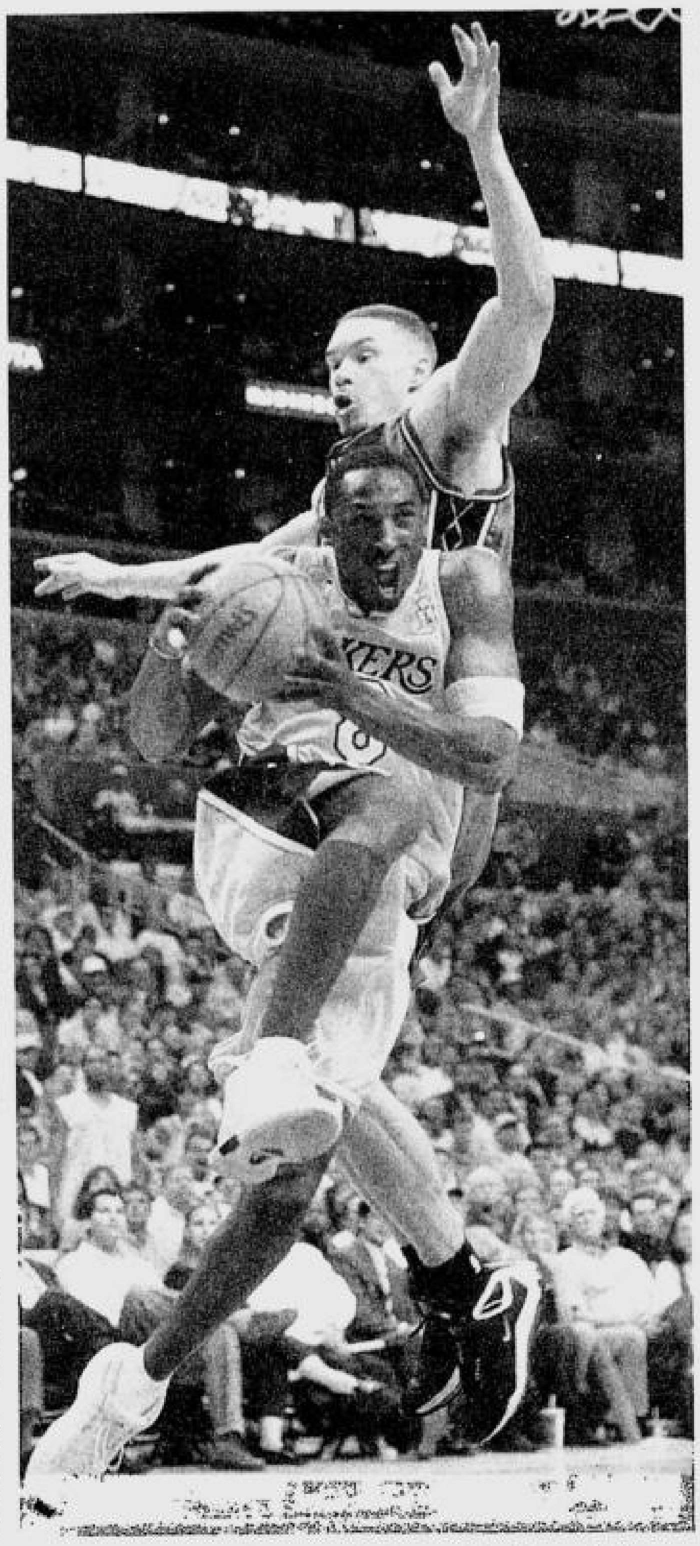
SOCCER: World Cup Today at 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports World Cup 2002 – Argentina vs England at 7:30 p.m. on Dream 42

TENNIS: French Open 2002, Men's Semifinals beginning at 7 p.m. on Sky Cable and Home Cable 29

BOXING: World Heavyweight Championship Fight Preview - Lennox Lewis vs Mike Tyson at 6 p.m. on NBN 4

NBA FINALS

Lakers coast to 99-94 victory



LAKERS' Kobe Bryant drives to the basket past Nets' Aaron Williams during Game 1 of the NBA Finals Wednesday. Lakers won, 99-94. AP

LOS ANGELES —The Los Angeles Lakers let a 23-point lead slip to three in the fourth quarter before Shaquille O'Neal & Co. finished off the New Jersey Nets 99-94 Wednesday in Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

Nobody will remember this one as an NBA classic, especially the underdogs representing the Eastern Conference. The Nets were out of their league in the first 15 minutes of the game, digging themselves a hole that was too deep to climb out of.

O'Neal was as dominant as everyone expected, totaling 36 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks. Kobe Bryant played his part too, scoring 22 points with six assists—the biggest of which was his feed to Rick Fox for a layup with 1:11 remaining that gave Los Angeles a 95-87 lead.

"This game was sort of a feeling-out game. I'm sure each game is going to be different," O'Neal said. "We're a little disappointed in ourselves, but the first game is out of the way and I'm sure the second one will be better."

For the most part, Los Angeles stayed in control and dictated the style of play, keeping the Nets from playing the uptempo game they prefer. The Lakers also were the more aggressive rebounders and the more accurate free throw shooters—two huge intangibles on a night when the Lakers weren't crisp offensively over the final 2-1/2 quarters.

"I got them revved up for the first quarter, but we kind of let up on the gas," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

The two-time defending champions wrapped things up by going 6-for-8 from the free throw line over the final two minutes. The Nets had a few chances to hit 3-pointers and turn it into a two-point game in the final 30 seconds, but they couldn't come up with the key baskets.

Game 2 is Friday night at Los Angeles' Staples Center.

Jason Kidd had 23 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the first triple-double in the NBA Finals since Charles Barkley did it for Phoenix in 1993. But no one else seemed prepared to assert himself for the Nets, whether it was Kenyon Martin refusing to take wide-open jumpers, Keith Van Horn failing to get going early or Kerry Kittles not doing much of anything all night.

Most damaging to the Nets was their free throw shooting as they missed 11 of 26 attempts.

"I think the guys were probably a little nervous. The last time we were nervous was the first game of the playoffs against Indiana," Nets coach Byron Scott said. *AP*

RP dribblers nip Ukraine

SONDRIO, Italy— After being blown off the court three times, the Philippines brought down Ukraine, 100-98, to finish its RP-Euro Selecta Basketball Challenge stint in style at the Palascieghi gym here.

Kenneth Duremdes, broke out of his shell to lead the Philippines with 22 points built around a 6-of-12 clip from beyond the three-point arc.

Coach Jong Uichico said the win was a fitting climax to a fruitful campaign by the team training for the Busan Asian Games in September.

"We're slowly adjusting to the international style," he said. "We realize our deficiencies and we know what to work on for the Asian Games. Beating Ukraine was a morale booster. But it's no reason to celebrate.

Ukraine produced National Basketball Association players Alexander Volkov, Vitaly Potapenko, and Stanislav Medvedenko.

Taulava fired 21 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Seigle knocked in 20.

Sondrio Sports minister Diego Pini awarded the third place trophy to Philippine head of delegation Renauld N. Barrios, project director Carlos Velez, team manager Elmer G. Yanga, coach Jong Uichico and Duremdes after the game.

Scores:

RP-Selecta 100—Duremdes 22, Taulava 21, Seigle 20, Racela 11, Cariaso 10, Pennisi 7, Menk 6, Espino 3, Hatfield 0, Fernandez 0.

Ukraine 98—Rayevsky 37, Yevstralenko 17, Fodorvanny 13, Gurtovoy 10, Gerasimehuk 10, Lishchuk 7, Balashov 4, Koravlov 0.

Halftime: 49-33.

Milo Checkmate begins tomorrow

THE MILO Checkmate Saturday clinic opens tomorrow at three venues, namely, St. Benedict College (SBC) in Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City; Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC), Vito Cruz, Manila and Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC) in San Juan.

The classes will be held at the following schedules: SBC—7-11a.m. at the HS student lounge; RMSC—9a.m.-1p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium opposite Harrison Plaza while in GSC—2:30-6:30 p.m. at the 2/F Centermall-Bangketa Area.

Open to kids who are 5-18 years old, the clinic aims to develop their chess talents into masters' strength level through formal and systematic method of teaching.

Enrollment is accepted at the venue site of their choice. Enrollees at SBC may also register at the cashier's office. For other details, call the Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560 and 0916-1069.

Meanwhile, a team composed of eight Milo Checkmate kids will fly to US on June 29 to compete in the World Open Chess Tournament slated on July 1-7 in Philadelphia. The trip, part of the Checkmate training program, gives the deserving students the chance to gain exposures abroad.

SPORTSWATCH

Jobo-Laura joint champs

WINNING Time DVH-ESM Jobo of sportsman-lawyer Rudy Salud and BL Laura of veteran campaigners Boy Lechon and Louie Cua emerged joint champions of the NCA 7-Cock Derby Wednesday night, scoring six points apiece at the Araneta Coliseum. Both entered in the forthcoming World Slasher 8-Cock Derby on June 17, 19 and 21, Winning Time and BL Laura wound up the circuit with a slim one-half point edge over RT 114 Mapalad I which finished with 5-1/2 points and five other entries with a five-point tally.

P.5-M derby unfolds

WITH a guaranteed prize of P500,000, the biggest and most exciting four-cock derby unfolds today at the popular Ana Rose Cockpit in Malabon. The first fight starts at 8 p.m. Derby host Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla said the derby would feature fighting cocks of National Cockers Association members led by Big Dome owner Nene Araneta. Also expected to compete are stalwarts of the United Cockers Association of the Philippines led by Patrick Antonio.

Pacquiao stakes crown

INTERNATIONAL Boxing Federation junior featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao will make his second title defense when he takes on two-time world bantamweight champion Jorge Eliecer Julio on the Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson undercard on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. (Phil. time), from The Pyramid in Mephis, Tenn. Former World Boxing Association 130-pound champion Joel Casamayor takes on Juan Jose Arias in a-10-round bout.

Malcolm returns vs Sagrado

AUSTRALIAN Jeff Malcolm, who caused damage to local promoters and fans, comes back to "make amends" when he fights Filipino challenger Fernando Sagrado in "The War At the Casino" June 15 at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater in Parañaque City.

Dream Duel

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

A SWEEP is in the making for Los Angeles? Not far-fetched if we use yesterday's Game 1 of the best-of-seven NBA Finals as barometer. The Lakers beat the New Jersey Nets, 99-94, with much ease because, as I keep telling friends, the Nets have no answer for Shaquille O'Neal.

The Lakers, the 9-1 favorites, may yet duplicate Houston's 4-0 swamping of Orlando for the NBA crown in 1995.

■

It wasn't too long ago when college teams were mere punching bags in the Philippine Basketball League. Today, they are practically lording it over in the country's premier league.

I refer to Ateneo and La Salle and, to a certain extent, Far Eastern University.

Look, Ateneo and La Salle have positioned themselves for a possible championship clash. Ateneo leads the pack with an 11-5 record, followed by La Salle with 11-6 in a tie with Blu. Kutitap, which is composed mainly of FEU players, is close behind at 10-7.

The handsome turn of events—handsome if you ask our school basketball officials—is due mainly to the vision of two Ateneo gentlemen who persevered in injecting college blood into the PBL. They are Arben Santos and Fr. Tito Caluag. Both conceptualized the idea of toughening the Ateneo Blue Eagles by fielding them in the PBL.

But it wasn't easy. People laughed at them at the start, especially when the Eagles became the league's immediate favorite whipping boys. They spent more time licking their wounds than winning games.

But as the saying goes, no pain, no gain. From the ruins of their labor came a new Ateneo quintet. In just a little while, the Ateneo Blue Eagles might just be in the PBL Finals—a feat that should add to the basketball lore of Ateneo.

Of course, the PBL will also bask in the glory of an Ateneo victory. For, it would mean that the league's commitment to become a partner for sports development is right on target.

And what's more, what if that Dream Duel would ensue? For, like it or not, an Ateneo-La Salle clash for the crown could prove to be a blockbuster of a series.

So, Arben and Fr. Tito, take a bow will you?

Your foresight is something worth remembering, if not emulating.

Coseteng seeks sweep

LEAD driver Jody Coseteng hopes to deliver a third straight sweep for Caltex-Globe Telecom as the SVI Subic Grand Prix stages Rounds 5 and 6 this weekend, June 8-9 at the newly upgraded Subic International Raceway.

There are apprehensions over the changes in track design and possible rain that could affect the drivers' chances in the SVI Super Saloon Series.

But whatever the challenges are, Coseteng is ready to stamp his mark anew.

"We are aware of these things. But the crew is ready with whatever adjustments we have to make as soon as we have our actual practice run at the track," said Coseteng, whose stint is backed up by Caltex Havoline, Globe Telecom, Red Horse Beer and Autoplus.

Coseteng proved just that when he pulled a rousing start for his four-peat bid by sweeping the kickoff races of the Philippine National Touring Car Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit last May 19.

Despite the new track design and the presence of buddy Jojo Silverio, Coseteng still dominated the race—showing class and consistency aboard his high-performance Honda Civic prepared by Autoplus and fueled by Vortex—that even the afternoon rain hardly bothered his near-perfect run.

Grand Prix resumes June 9

AFTER a one-month respite, the 2002 SVI-Petron Grand Prix resumes with the fifth and sixth rounds at the Subic International Raceway on June 9.

Jody Coseteng of Caltex-Auto Plus-Red Horse sets out as the top favorite anew in the Blaze super saloon category, centerpiece event in this prestigious series organized by Sports Values Inc. (SVI) in cooperation with Petron and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

Coseteng, who is hoping to become the first driver to win three circuit racing titles since its revival in 1994, swept the first four rounds with his brand new Honda SIR last April 14 and April 28.

Coseteng's closest rivals will be Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA, Carlos Anton of Gulf Oil-MP Turbo, Nilo Pazcoguin of Beefeater and defending champion Ferdinand Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery.

Ateneo tests Blu's power today in Chairman's Cup

GAMES TODAY (Pasig Sports Center)

3 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Ateneo-Hapee-Nenaco

5 p.m.—Shark Energy vs Kutitap Toothpaste

By Dennis U. Eroa

LEADER Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation tries to fortify its finals bid as it tackles Blu Sun Power today in the PBL Chairman's Cup semifinals at the Pasig Sports Center.

Needing two wins to book a finals slot, the Blue Eagles are expected to pour the heat against the Detergent Kings, who are also in hot pursuit of their first finals appearance.

"We're going for the number one slot," said Ateneo-Hapee-Nenaco mentor Joel Banal. The Blue Eagles snapped a two-game skid in the semis by outlasting the Kutitap Sparklers, 85-77 in two overtimes last Wednesday.

The Blu-Ateneo match is set at 3 p.m., followed by the Shark Energy Drink-Kutitap tussle at 5 p.m.

"Ateneo can be beaten, but we need to play a very disciplined game," said Blu mentor Leo Isaac. Ateneo downed Blu in the first round of the semis, 64-57.

Asuncions advance to semis

KENNEVIC and Kennie Asuncion slammed the pair of Gabby Nepomuceno and Karen Gutierrez, 15-0, 15-10, and advanced to the semifinals of the 2002 JVC Badminton Open Championships yesterday at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

The Asuncions go for the finals in the mixed doubles competition against Michelle de Jesus and Alex Cuevas who bombed the tandem of Reynaldo Selga and Lyka Leonor, 15-9, 13-15, 15-10 in the other quarterfinal match.

The other semifinalist was the pair of former PSC commissioner and Olympian Amparo "Weena" Lim and Naresh Ramnani, who crushed the partnership of Mylene and Arolas Amahit, 15-8, 15-3.

Kennie Asuncion progressed in her ladies singles title bid with an 11-0, 11-1 easy win over Sandy Banguiles. She will next face the winner in the other quarterfinal match between Aliday Fay Santos and Michelle Guerrero.

Valdez wrests Class O singles lead

PAOLO Valdez finally made headway in the 31st Boysen-PBC International Open yesterday, grabbing the lead in the singles event men's class O of the meet serving as the third leg of the CGU Asian Bowling Tour 2002 at the Green Valley Center in Pasig.

The TBAM-Prima stalwart scored a four-game series of 945 pinfalls, eclipsing the previous best of 941 by RP team member Chester King, leader in the division since Day 1.

King fell at second place while a far third was fellow PBAP teammate Jeremy Posadas.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Edna Olivarez beat Julie Slattery, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4, to bag the singles title of the NCAA nationals at the University of California Davis courts.

Cambodians join Parliamentarians golf

MACAPAGAL

CLOSE to 2000 participants, led by the seven man-delegation from Cambodia, are expected to join the 1st Asian Parliamentarians Golf Cup, which unveils tomorrow at Wack Wack.

No less than Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will lead the ceremonial tee-off at 10 a.m. and play a round of nine holes to kick off the two-day event.

Other participants include members of the various diplomatic corps from China, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Lebanon, Malaysia, Singapore and India.

On the local front, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, former President Fidel V. Ramos, MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos and Secretary Ed Ermita will banner several teams composed of other government officials and private personalities.

Teams from the House of Representatives headed by Speaker Jose De Venecia Jr. and Rep. Monico O. Puentevella, Chairman, House Committee on Youth and Sports Development will steer the participation of 18 congressmen.

The tournament is a special project of the Congressional Sports Development Foundation and supported by Pagcor-Casino Filipino, PSC, PLDT, Bingo Bonanza, Mitsubishi, PCSO, PTA, Coca-Cola, Executive International Movers, Intrasports, Heritage Hotel Manila, DHL, NGAP, STI, DFA, MMDA, DILG and the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Senegal ties Denmark; Saudis out

WORLD CUP 2002 STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
Group A								
Denmark	2	1	1	0	3	2	+1	4
Senegal	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	4
France	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Uruguay	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Group B								
Spain	1	1	0	0	3	1	+2	3
Paraguay	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
SouthAfrica	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
Group C								
CostaRica	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
Brazil	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
Turkey	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
China	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Group D								
Korea	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
USA	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	3
Portugal	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
Poland	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Group E								
Germany	2	1	1	0	9	1	+8	4
Cameroon	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	4
Rep Ireland	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
SaudiArabia	1	0	0	1	0	9	-9	0
Group F								
Argentina	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	0
England	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Sweden	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Nigeria	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Group G								
Italy	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
México	1	1	0	0	1	0	+1	3
Croatia	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
Ecuador	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0
Group H								
Russia	1	1	0	0	2	0	+2	3
Belgium	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Japan	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1	0	2	-2	0

SENEGALESE midfielder Salif Diao celebrates after scoring the equalizer against Denmark. The match ended in a 1-1 tie. AP

DAEGU, South Korea — Senegal's encore to its shocking upset of defending champion France on World Cup debut was a 1-1 tie with Denmark Thursday.

In another dramatic encounter against a more fancied European rival, Senegal rallied on Salif Diao's second-half equalizer and then held on in the closing minutes with 10 men as the Liverpool-bound midfielder was red carded for a sliding challenge on Denmark defender Rene Henriksen in the 80th minute.

Denmark coach Morten Olsen said his team was lucky to come off with a draw.

In Saitama, Japan, Samuel Eto'o scored on a nifty individual move as Cameroon eliminated Saudi Arabia with a 1-0 victory and moved to second place behind Germany in Group E.

The Saudis became the first team to be eliminated. Their second consecutive loss followed one of the most lopsided defeats in World Cup history—8-0 against Germany in the opener.

Eto'o eluded two defenders in the 65th minute, collecting a pass and using his right foot to push the ball past goalkeeper Mohammed al-Deayea.

France and Uruguay were still playing in Group A as of presstime. A defeat for either side will see them eliminated from the tournament. *AP*

Spaniard foils Agassi's bid

PARIS—American Andre Agassi's bid for a second French Open title was stopped by Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero Thursday as Ferrero defeated Agassi 6-3, 5-7, 7-5, 6-3 to advance to the semifinals for a third straight year.

The match had been suspended Wednesday by rain and an inspired Agassi came back out to capture the second set and tie it up against an Ferrero, who, at age 22, is 10 years younger than Agassi.

With the third set tied at 5-5, Agassi squandered three break points in the 11th game. Ferrero then broke to win the set when Agassi hit a backhand wide, double faulted and sailed a forehand long on the final three points. The key to the match: Agassi's 87 unforced errors to 71 for the hard-hitting Ferrero.

Ferrero's fellow countryman, Alex Corretja, also advanced to the semifinals Thursday, completing a 7-6 (5), 7-5, 7-5 victory over a weary Andrei Pavel of Romania, who had more important things on his mind.

Corretja, twice a finalist, won three straight games to capture a match that was initially suspended Tuesday night by darkness and held up again by rain on Wednesday.

In a scheduling logjam on center court, Marat Safin of Russia and Sebastien Grosjean of France also were to play their quarterfinal before the women began their semifinals: Americans Jennifer Capriati vs. Serena Williams, and American Venus Williams vs. unseeded Clarisa Fernandez of Argentina.

The Williams siblings, each in her first Roland Garros semifinal, are close to setting up another all-in-the-family Grand Slam final, just as they did last year at the U.S. Open. Venus won that title 6-4, 6-2. *AP*

AC Server prevails

AC SERVER got a boost from two goals by Tono and a goal each by Fritz Webb and Maricel Abad to turn back FC Mañosa (1-2, 2-1 and 5-3 on penalties) in last weekend's Family Futbol match. This June, Cup holder Athletic De Larrauri meets Longa United.

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NCR elementary bets pull away

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA CITY – National Capital Region continued to throw its weight around in the elementary competition while making a serious threat in the secondary level even as tracksters and swimmers went ahead in re-writing record books yesterday in the Palarong Pambansa at the Metro Naga Sports Complex.

Scooping most of its gold from the swimming pool, NCR already amassed eight gold medals, three silvers and five bronzes to pull away in the elementary class, which the Big City athletes dominated during the 2000 Games in Bacolod City.

NCR is also a breath away in the secondary level, moving just a gold medal away from current leader Southern Tagalog, which also got most of its victories in the swimming competition. Southern Tagalog has eight golds, five silvers and two bronzes, while NCR totes a 7-2-3 tally.

But the more remarkable feats were achieved in the track oval yesterday when Gov. Sering Cup standout Maricel Sibog of South Cotabato and 12-year-old Jayjay Rogelio of Mulanay, Quezon, shattered the marks in secondary girls' long jump and elementary boys' 800m, respectively.

Sibog, who was gifted by the legendary Elma Muros her Southeast Asian Games with her winning spikes during the Sering Cup, sprung to a record distance of 5.66 meters, beating the four-year-old 5.54m mark of Asian Grand Prix bronze winner Maristela Torres.

She said she was even bothered by back pains which prompted her to let go of athletic scholarship offers from top universities in Manila and enroll instead in the South Cotabato National Agricultural School.

Rogelio clocked two minutes, 7.6 seconds to break the 2:08.2 time of Askar Mohammed done in 1998.

Angeles City's Marvin Lee Saradona also created stir in winning the 100m dash for secondary boys although his effort wasn't good enough to break the existing mark. He clocked 11.2 seconds, 0.3 seconds off the standard to give Central Luzon its first-ever medal in the meet.

ROMY HOMILLADA

JAYJAY Rogelio of Region 4 wins the gold in boys 800-m secondary run during the Palarong Pambansa in Naga.

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Takahashi, Deuel triumph; Strickland downs 'Django'

JAPANESE ace KunihikoTakahashi spoiled the debut of local bet Dennis Orcullo with a thrilling 7-3 victory at the start of the 2002 Motolite World 9-Ball Challenge yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

STRICKLAND

Takahashi meets 2000 All-Japan Champion Antonio "Nickoy" Lining today as Japan's top cue artist lines himself closer to the $15,000 top prize in the six-day event presented by Puyat Sports and Viva Vintage Television.

Lining, the 2000 All-Japan titlist, bowed to reigning US Open champion Corey Deuel, 7-2, after failing to score in the last five racks. From a 2-2 count, Deuel rallied and finished Lining off with a 3-to-9 combination in the corner pocket.

The 22-year-old Orcullo, getting his first taste of big-time international pool competition, tries to bounce back today against Deuel, winner of six major tournaments last year.

Earl "The Pearl" Strickland made it a triple kill for the visitors as the five-time US Open champion bested Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 7-4, later in the night.

World renowned Filipino pool master Efren "Bata" Reyes and Mika "The Fantastic Finn" Immonen were still battling it out as of presstime.

Reyes, who pocketed $160,000 for winning last year's Tokyo 9-Ball International Tournament, faces Strickland while Bustamante collides with Immonen in another race-to-seven elimination affair today.

Format calls for each Filipino player to compete against every member of the international squad in a race-to-seven elimination match before the top two Filipinos and the top two players of the visiting team fight it out in a race-to-9 crossover semifinal encounter.

The finalists in the $40,000 event, which awards $10,000 to the runner-up and $7,500 to the third placer, will battle for supremacy in a race-to-13 confrontation. *June Navarro*

Dancing of the crowd

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

MIGHTY Mika Immonen of Finland, who was scheduled to play local favorite Efren "Bata" Reyes late last night in the Motolite 9-Ball Challenge at the Big Dome, is fast emerging as the man of the moment, the darling of the crowd because of his pleasant personality, charm and determined good sense.

Immonen, 29, made sports history last year when he won the World 9-Ball Championship in Cardiff, beating 1996 champion Ralf "The Kaiser" Souquet of Germany, 17-10, in a nail-biting final. His stirring victory made sure that the world pool title is back in Europe following the Asian domination of the championship the past two years. Fong Pang-chao of Taiwan won the World Pool Championship in 2000 while Bata Reyes accomplished the rare feat in 1999.

Immonen is not a flashy player at the pool table. But when he is playing, he is full of concentration. He keeps in shape by jogging and loves watching television shows (his favorites are "Friends" and "The Simpsons"). He also loves going to the movies, listing Paul Newman and Jennifer Lopez as his favorite stars. Although he loves to drink beer and eat Italian food, he surprisingly manages to keep his body fit and trim. Apart from winning the 2001 World Pool 9-Ball Championship, Immonen also won the European Straight Pool tournament in 1998, finished third in the 1998 US Open, won the European Tour in 1992, the Scandinavian Open in 1994-95 and the Peace Cup championship in Taiwan in 1996.

On the other hand, Reyes is tipped to win because, aside from being a thinking player as I mentioned earlier, he is the most experienced among the participants. With his vast experience, not to mention his smooth and oftentimes incredible shots, Reyes showed the world that he is second to no one in the sport of billiards. Last year alone, he won five major titles and pocketed a staggering P12.4 million in prizes. His titles included the US Masters in Chesapeake, the Accu-Stats 8-Ball in Los Angeles, the Tokyo 9-Ball Championship, the World Pool Invitational in Poland and his one-on-one duel here with women's world billiards sensation Jeannette Lee of the US.

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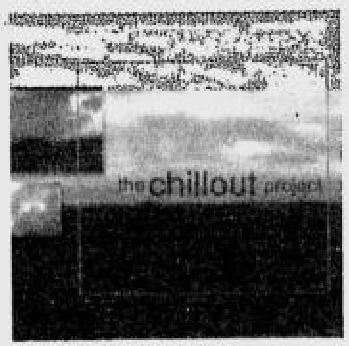

Chillout Project / Various Artists
Longing (All I Hear)
Chart position: 1 Keyword: **longing**

Walk To Remember - OST / Various Artists
Cry by Mandy Moore
Chart position: 3 Keyword: **cry**

Come Away With Me / Norah Jones
Come Away With Me
Chart position: 8 Keyword: **comeaway**

J To The Lo: Remixes / Jennifer Lopez
I'm Real
Chart position: 11 Keyword: **imreal**

Spider-man - OST / Various Artists
What We're All About by Sum41
Chart position: 7 Keyword: **allabout**

Best Of Me / David Foster
I Swear by David Foster & All For One
Chart position: 12 Keyword: **iswear**

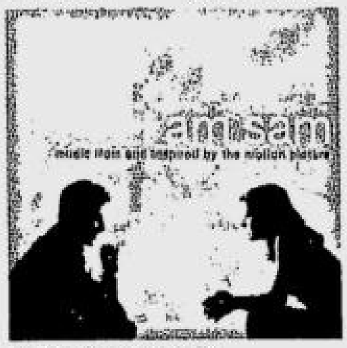
Fever / Kylie Minogue
Love At First Sight
Chart position: 9 Keyword: **firstsight**

Spirit Room / Michelle Branch
Everywhere
Chart position: 24 Keyword: **everywhere**

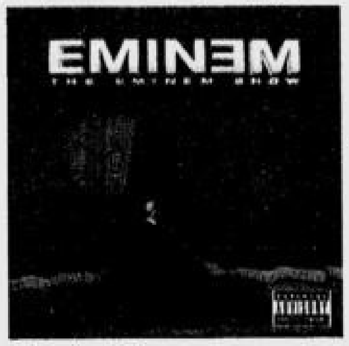
Gutterflower / Goo Goo Dolls
Here Is Gone
Chart position: 20 Keyword: **hereisgone**

Ashanti / Ashanti
Foolish
Chart position: 6 Keyword: **foolish**

Camino Palmero / Calling
Wherever You Will Go
Chart position: 22 Keyword: **youwillgo**


I Am Sam - OST / Various Artists
Strawberry Fields Forever by Ben Harper
Chart position: 4 Keyword: **strawberry**

Laundry Service / Shakira
Whenever, Wherever
Chart position: 19 Keyword: **whenever**


Eminem Show / Eminem
Without Me
Chart Position: 5 Keyword: **withoutme**

All Rise / Blue
Fly By
Chart Position: 16 Keyword: **flyby**

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2	**Josh Groban**	Josh Groban
3	**Walk To Remember-OST**	Various Artists
4	**I Am Sam-OST**	Various Artists
5	**Eminem Show**	Eminem
6	**Ashanti**	Ashanti
7	**Spider-man-OST**	Various Artists
8	**Come Away With Me**	Norah Jones
9	**Fever**	Kylie Minogue
10	**Look Of Love**	Diana Krall
11	**J To The Lo-Remixes**	Jennifer Lopez
12	**Best Of Me**	David Foster
13	**Pinakamamahal**	Aiza Sequerra
14	**Regine: Revised**	Regine Velasquez
15	**One 2 One**	Gary Valenciano
16	**All Rise**	Blue
17	**Star Wars: Episode II - OST**	
18	**18**	Moby
19	**Laundry Service**	Shakira
20	**Gutterflower**	Goo Goo Dolls
21	**Revive**	Gary Valenciano
22	**Camino Palmero**	Calling
23	**Project 11-41**	Slapshock
24	**Spirit Room**	Michelle Branch
25	**Better Man**	Ogie Alcasid

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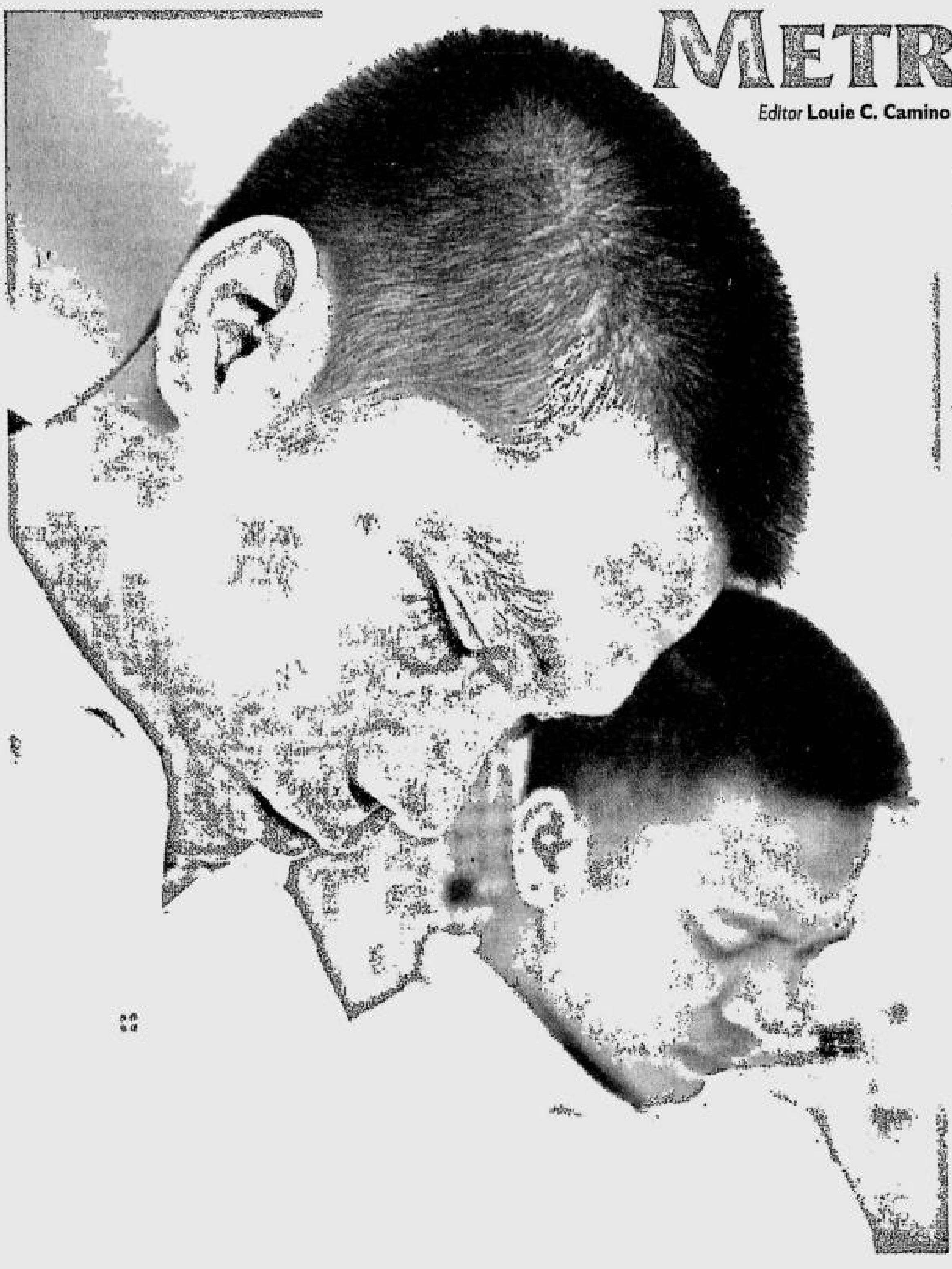
METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

■ Bare Eye: Mike Enriquez traces Mayor Benhur's hidden games /A26



"GUILTY" Punzalan (right) and "not guilty" Balba. DENNIS SABANGAN

HOSTAGE KILLING

21 Pasay cops charged with homicide

By Alcuin Papa

CHARGES of homicide were filed yesterday against 21 policemen and eight security guards for the death of four-year-old hostage Dexter Balala on May 31.

The charges were filed by the Southern Police District director, Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, before the office of City Prosecutor Francisco Beron about 6 p.m.

Gutierrez said the charges were based on the ballistics examination they conducted on the firearms of all the accused, the testimonies of witnesses and the results of their own investigation.

The SPD chief clarified that the charges filed yesterday were only for the death of the Balala boy and not for the death of Diomedes Talvo, who had taken him hostage. The Talvo family has not filed complaints before his office, he said.

The policemen charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide were Pasay City chief of police Eduardo de la Cerna, Inspectors Reynaldo Baral, Aquilino Almazan and Edith Altera, SPO1 Alfredo Villa, Police Officers 3 Marco Duka, Rodolfo Soquina and Jose Jonard Castro, Police Officers 2 Ashley Gamulo, Raymundo Sabino, and Leoncio Muñoz and Police Officers 1 Jay Martinez, Roland Garcia, Roberto Landong, Lemuel Galang, Christopher Torres, Gregorio Mendoza, Florante Nobleza, Roberto Gonzales and Andito Guardian.

The same charges were also filed against eight security guards of the Philtranco bus terminal, where the hostage drama happened. They were identified as Raul Herbias, Rolando Gerones, Angel Factoran Jr., Pepenio Santander, Alfred Estosos, Arnold Macario, Rey Mojica and Dennis Tripoli, all of the Saga Security Agency.

The homicide charge carries a penalty of imprisonment of six months to six years.

Balala died after Talvo took him hostage at the Philtranco bus terminal after midnight last Friday. When Talvo started to stab the boy, police and security guards opened fire, killing man and boy instantly.

The Pasay policemen violated basic operational procedures during the hostage drama, police officials said yesterday.

Deputy Director General Rex Piad, head of the Philippine National Police's Directorial Staff, said the Pasay lawmen committed several lapses in hostage crisis management. He said these lapses included failing to secure the

21 PASAY/ A26

1 gets death, another cleared in Marikina mother-and-son slays

By Nelson F. Flores

A MARIKINA Regional Trial Court judge yesterday sentenced to death by lethal injection Renato Punzalan whom it found guilty of killing his neighbors Celedonia Polendey, 38, and her 7-year-old son Theodore Lyndon in their home in Marikina City in March 1998.

But RTC Branch 272 Judge Reuben de la Cruz acquitted laborer Alejandro Balba of murder following the failure of government lawyers to prove his guilt.

In his 40-page decision, Judge De la Cruz said the defense that the accused presented could not overwhelm the positive identification of Punzalan, a dental technician, as the killer of mother and son.

Nine-year-old Alfred Jake, eldest son of Polendey, suffered at least 20 stab wounds but survived and identified Punzalan.

"It is he (Punzalan) who should die," the boy had shouted when Punzalan was presented to him in 1998 at the hospital where he was being treated for the stab wounds that left him paralyzed from the waist down.

Celedonia and Theodore were found dead from several stab wounds in their studio-type home on Ephesian Street at the Oro Vista Subdivision in Barangay Concepcion about 7 a.m. of March 13, 1998.

Police arrested Punzalan 13 hours later. Alfred Jake identified him as one of several men who broke into their house and stabbed his mother, younger brother and himself.

Polendey's husband Teodorico, a seaman, was in Honolulu, Hawaii at the time of the killing.

DENNIS SABANGAN

RELIEVED, relatives of acquitted Balba cry after the promulgation.

"The reason I decided to work abroad is to ensure a bright future for my family," he had said after flying back home following the killings. "Now all my dreams are gone."

Celedonia died from four stab wounds. She was found sprawled on the floor of the laundry area in the back of the house. Theodore lay dead on his side near the kitchen sink, with four stab wounds. Alfred Jake was found in the living room.

The Polendeys were neighbors of Punzalan and Balba.

Camacho vehicle stolen

By Tina Santos

CAMACHO

JUST two days after the Central Police District announced the recovery of at least 20 stolen vehicles, car thieves attacked again. This time the hapless victim was Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Camacho's dark green Estrada L-300 van (UHR-985) was parked in front of the residence of Camacho's driver Jory Moranilla, 56, in Kamuning, Quezon City, when it was taken by a still unidentified man about 2:30 a.m. yesterday.

Officer on case SPO2 Rolando Nogera said Moranilla claimed that since it was already very late, Camacho had allowed him to bring home the vehicle, which he had parked in front of his house while he ate supper

CAMACHO/ A26

'Text Usok': Text in your smoke-belching complaints

By Alcuin Papa

"IF WE can text a Philippine president out of power, we can text smoke belchers out of our streets."

Saying this, ABS-CBN Foundation president Gina Lopez yesterday launched "Text Usok," which hopes to rid the roads of the metropolis of smoke belchers.

"Text Usok" of the foundation's environmental group Bantay Kalikasan now allows residents of text-crazy Metro Manila to use their cell phones to report smoke-belching vehicles to authorities.

The system allows anyone with a cellular phone to report smoke belchers by simply keying in "USOK<space>plate number<space>location<space> vehicle type and send to 2366.

The messages are received by Bantay Kalikasan and compiled in a database. Bantay Kalikasan is also capable of receiving information on smoke belchers via e-mail and telephone calls.

The list of the plate numbers of violators will be forwarded to the Land Transportation Office (LTO) which will then summon the vehicle owners or operators to make sure they comply with vehicle emission standards.

Lopez said the project is aimed to improve the quality of the air in Metro Manila and to enforce the Clean Air Act.

She said that according to the World Health Organization, Metro Manila is now the fourth most polluted city in the world and that its pollution level is four times over the prescribed limit.

Lopez said they would go to schools to inform students of the program. "We want to tap the young because of their idealism and their proficiency with technology," she explained.

The LTO chief, retired general Roberto Lastimoso, told reporters that if vehicles still do not comply with the LTO emission standards, their owners and operators would be fined up to P5,000 and their franchise would be canceled.

He said that if the owners and operators ignore the LTO call for them to appear before the agency, "we will visit them personally and insist that we test their vehicles."

Studies say that pollutants in Metro Manila mainly come from suspended particulates, 70 percent of which are from motor vehicles.

The LTO said about 1.25 million vehicles were registered in the National Capital Region last year.

On the other hand, an estimated 13 million people are cell phone users nationwide.

Dr. Alexander Tuazon of the Philippine Academy of Pediatric Pulmonologists said that 10 to 16 people die of respiratory diseases every day in Metro Manila, most of them children.

Present in yesterday's launch were Lastimoso, Metro Manila Development Authority assistant general manager Rogelio Uranza, Guillermo Luz of the Makati Business Club and Integrated Metro Bus Operators Association (Imboa) president Claire de la Fuente.

TEXT USOK/ A26

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Depot safe, says Petron

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PANDACAN oil depot is safe and poses no threat to the safety of surrounding communities.

This was the initial finding of a comprehensive risk assessment made on the oil terminal, which the Manila city council wants to remove by the end of the month.

Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq, president of the largest local refiner Petron Corp., said in an interview that the risk assessment was made by a world-class company specializing in such studies.

"We are still finalizing the major risk assessment, but we have completed it months before the original target of October," Ma'ashouq said.

Petron, along with Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc., last year agreed with the energy department to come up with a master plan on how to resolve the Pandacan problem.

The Manila government late last year passed an ordinance ordering the depot to move out of the city following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"We accept the sentiment of (Manila) Mayor Lito Atienza and we are working very hard to make Pandacan a safer facility," the Petron chief said.

He said Petron had presented to Atienza as well as to Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. a scheme to phase down the depot operations to make the facility safer.

Ma'ashouq said phasing down meant limiting depot activities and setting up a buffer zone for safety.

"We are currently working with the other oil companies in Pandacan and the energy department to present a concept that will be acceptable to the city council," he said.

On Wednesday, Perez denied reports that he and Atienza had signed an agreement allowing the continued operation of the oil depot in Pandacan.

Perez said in a statement that if there was any agreement, this was between his department and the Big Three.

"Mayor Atienza is not a party to that agreement," he said.

Perez earlier said that the relocation of the depot could mean a disruption of oil supply in Metro Manila, since the depot accounts for about 60 percent of supply in the area.

"Relocation could also mean hundreds of tanker trucks plying our highways, which is more dangerous," he said.

Mike Enriquez traces Mayor Benhur's hidden gems

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

MIKE Enriquez, the most visible, most vocal crime investigator in town, came alone.

This was last Sunday evening in Makati City. Shortly before 6 p.m., Angelus time, he moved unnoticed into the music hall of the Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1 on De La Costa Street.

Gentleman Mike came to confirm what he had heard.

He went there to listen and investigate.

By the time he had settled quietly in his middle back-row seat, the Francisco Santiago Hall, a smaller version of the Cultural Center of the Philippine main theater, was already teeming with quiet, softly-moving spectators.

The main stage, where a black piano sat on the left edge, was half-lit.

A chime sounded tung, tung, tung like a clock, then a male voice made an announcement: "The show begins in 10 minutes."

This was at 6: 15 p.m.

The show began 20 minutes later.

***

For two hours, with two intermissions, Enriquez sat immobile, intent, his searching owl eyes focused at center stage.

Some of those who noticed him there whispered amusedly that Mike Enriquez was around.

But they also wondered what the host of the popular investigative television show "Imbestigador" was doing in a children's choir concert.

The event was the Angeli Domini concert, the Mandaluyong Children's Chorus' first show in its 2002 series.

Mike Enriquez did not bring along any assistant. He did not carry any gadget. But, being a seasoned choir singer himself, he happened to own enough credentials to size up the musical kids.

The Mandaluyong Children's Chorus, founded and headed by Baste L. Trinidad, had amazed him the first time he heard the group last December.

***

Starting with "Aleluya" by National Artist Lucio San Pedro, the opening number, down to the scheduled final song "When You Believe" by Stephen Schwartz, the full house appeared to be under a spell.

It would fall into a sweet hush during a song, and erupt with joyful approval once a number was completed.

In all those magical minutes, the hall would be transformed into different forms.

The pure, sinless voices of the performers, aged 8 to 16, could become the sigh of a forest, the song of a brook, the laughter of the wind, the peal of bells, the voice of angels.

With harmonious precision and control, the songs could at times be mistaken to come from instruments.

But a true test for the 30-strong group were "Bungisngis," an exacting original by Katherine Trangco which had its world premier that night, and Helen Tejero's "Arimaonga," a chanting exorcism exercise that centered on the eviction of a mythical beast that lived in the sky and ate the moon whenever it got hungry.

No doubt the young choir had passed the test with flying colors, the reason it had to render two extra numbers, before exiting to a thunderous standing ovation.

***

Organizers were, however, left wondering if Mike Enriquez ever erupted in applause during his investigation.

What did he find? Why did he leave the hall very quietly, his familiar face firm?

The Monday morning after, in his early radio program "Saksi," Mike bared the result of his investigation.

He was beyond himself in giving profuse praises.

Yes, Mike Enriquez confirmed, for the whole nation to hear, the Mandaluyong Children's Chorus, Philippine representative to the 2nd Choir Olympics in Busan, South Korea in October, definitely deserved the role.

The group was officially nominated to the choir Olympiad by Andrea O. Veneracion, National Artist for Music and founding mother of the world-renowned singer Philippine Madrigal Singers.

Enriquez also chided Mandaluyong city residents for not knowing anything about the gems, a treasure lode of talents, which Mandaluyong City has been helping raise all these years.

***

Barked Mike: "*Hoy, mga taga*-Mandaluyong, *may ipinagmamalaki kayo diyan, lamang di pa ninyo nalalaman. Nakakataas balahibo, nakakapangilabot...napakagaling. Maski ano ang mangyari itatawid natin sa* Busan *para sa* choir Olympics."

Mike Enriquez knows he has to raise funds for the choir, inclusive of airfare, board and lodging.

Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos has pledged P500,000. Rep. Neptali "Boyet" Gonzales will extend help.

Columbia Foods International, a regular backer, is chipping in; so are Barangay Wack Wack East Greenhills, headed by chair Marcos Roces, and Equitable PCI Bank and MCO Foundation.

All told, Mike Enriquez, after the surprise investigation, has vowed to pull strings (not necessarily musical) to make the Olympic dream a reality.

He did not say it, but he obviously meant it would be a crime if the world fails to hear this group of golden Filipino talents.

Sue Greggy, Caloocan solon urges

By Tina Santos

ECHIVERRI

CALOOCAN CITY Rep. Enrico "Recom" Echiverri (District I) yesterday urged the government to file a reversion case against businessman Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta III to finally settle the dispute between him and residents of the controversial 154-hectare Pangarap Village in the city.

The dispute has resulted in violent incidents between the residents and Araneta's security personnel.

Through the House Resolution No. 409, Echiverri sought to initiate the filing of the case through the Office of the Solicitor General to nullify Araneta's claim over the property and to ease the fears of the rightful owners of the contested land.

"I believe that through this resolution, the residents of Pangarap Village would gain justice or moral victory," the congressman said. "We will let Pangarap become a'reality."

In a committee hearing held at the Pangarap Village yesterday morning, Echiverri emphasized that the community is government property since Araneta failed to pay for it in full.

The Land Management Bureau also found enough legal basis for the cancellation of the land titles held by the Aranetas in Pangarap Village through Carmel Development Inc., formerly Carmel Farms Inc.

According to the memorandum issued by the Land Management Bureau, the government should institute reversion proceedings against the title of Carmel Farms since its validity was not passed in January 1988.

A series of violent incidents has rocked Pangarap, the most recent of which was the grenade explosion and indiscriminate firing by unidentified men last week.

Even the committee hearing yesterday was not spared from disruption. A busload of unidentified men attempted to barge into the village, claiming they were conducting road tests.

Several men fired guns indiscriminately, harassing residents just a few meters away from the church where the hearing was being held, police said. Police found several empty slugs of M-16 rifles in the area.

Echiverri asked the residents to cooperate by not engaging in any violence, particularly against the personnel of Araneta.

Businesswoman robbed, slain in Sampaloc

By Philip C. Tubeza

THREE robbers on Wednesday afternoon stabbed to death businesswoman Manwinder K. Brar, 34, in her home in Sampaloc, Manila, after taking P10,000 from her but leaving behind her bag containing jewelry.

Brar was hit in the head with a pistol and then stabbed repeatedly in the body, said Detective Rodolfo M. Rival of the Western Police District-Homicide Section.

The robbers rounded up in the toilet Brar's husband Amardeep Singh, his mother Gurcharan Kaur, relatives Jungminder Paz Brar, and Bhagat Singh Grewal and two other females at about 2 p.m. on Wednesday, police said.

The household was having lunch when the robbers, who were armed with knives and a handgun, barged in, police said.

One of the suspects brought out a picture of Brar and asked her husband Amardeep if she was his wife, police said.

Amardeep's mother told them Brar was on the second floor of the house.

Police said the suspects went upstairs, taking Amardeep with them. They found Brar and ordered her to produce P50,000, but she only had P10,000, police said.

Brar offered to give the suspects her bag containing jewelry, which was on the ground floor, police said.

While Amardeep and a maid fetched the bag, one of the suspects hit Brar in the head with a pistol, police said.

The other suspects then stabbed her repeatedly in the body, police said.

After the stabbing, the men left hurriedly, leaving behind the bag of jewelry, police said.

Investigators were trying to determine if Brar's killing is connected to her reported abduction a few months ago.

But police said Brar was not abducted but only eloped with her lover.

'Text Usok': Text . . .

From page A25

De la Fuente said her group is supporting the drive against smoke belching "because we all breathe the same air."

She also appealed to government agencies to "help the transport industry avert a transport crisis."

"Clean air is expensive and we are already sacrificing our profits to maintain our vehicles," she said. "It would help if the government were to grant us some concessions like a subsidy or tax exemptions."

She said the revenues of the transport industry have gone down in recent years because of the color-coding scheme and the operation of the Light Rail Transit and the Metro Rails Transit.

METROBRIEFS

Slain in Caloocan

FISH vendor Angeles Lulu Canias, 33, was killed when he tried to resist three armed men who were robbing him and the other passengers of a jeepney in Caloocan City Wednesday morning. Canias, of Arayat, Pampanga, died of a gunshot wound in the back of the head, said PO2 Jaime Basa. Driver Oscar Basilio, 46, said three men who boarded the jeepney on Letre Road at 1:55 a.m. immediately took out their weapons and announced the heist. They tried to grab the handbag of Rowena Duncan but she fought back with the help of Canias, prompting one of the suspects to shoot him. The suspects immediately fled after the shooting. **Tina Santos**

Suicide in Makati

RICKY Balingit, 24, committed suicide on Wednesday, police said. Balingit's sister Belinda de Leon, 23, told police that Balingit, of Barangay Olympia, Makati City, was already dead when she found him in his room at around 5:30 a.m. She said that on May 4, her brother also tried to kill himself. ***Alcuin Papa***

Caught in Glorietta

JOBLESS Elsa Yap claimed she didn't have enough money to pay for the treatment of her newborn baby's urinary tract infection at the Andres Bonifacio Hospital in Tondo, Manila. Desperate and still weak after giving birth on June 3, the 45-year-old widow, of Del Pan Street, Tondo, tried to steal nine blouses worth P5,841 from a Kamiseta boutique at the Glorietta Mall in Makati City on Tuesday, police said. Unfortunately, boutique supervisor Leinalee Kaligagan, 28, caught her and turned her over to security men. ***Alcuin Papa***

Raped in Bulacan

APRIL Lopez, 8, was raped and killed by a neighbor in Hagonoy, Bulacan on Saturday, police said. Her body was fished out of a river near her house in Barangay San Nicolas about 5:30 a.m. on Sunday, said PO2 Valeriano Crisostomo of the Hagonoy Police. Suspect Rodel Santos, 21, a fisherman and neighbor of the victim, was arrested. Police said Santos' wristwatch was found on the victim's body. Police believed the suspect gave his watch to Lopez to entice her to go with him. PO2 Crisostomo said Santos was having a drink with some friends, including Lopez's father, in front of the girl's house Saturday night, when he suddenly decided to leave. When the party broke up at midnight, Lopez's relatives became alarmed when they could not find the girl, who was last seen playing near the drinking men. Their search ended when they found her body the following day. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Burned on Roxas Boulevard

THE SCORCHED remains of a woman, whom police believed was also a victim of sexual assault, was found on Tuesday beside the sea wall along Roxas Boulevard in Parañaque City. Garbage collector Baciano Sudalay, 48, told police he found the body at noon when he urinated on the seawall in front of the Asiana Boulevard Park. He said he called a traffic enforcer and told him the body was still moving when he found it. The woman was taken to a nearby hospital, where she was pronounced dead, said PO1 Rodolfo Balacuay of the Parañaque police. ***Alcuin Papa, Kelly Gelvezon, Analiza Malvar***

Conned in Ermita

JENNIFER A. Baguio blew her chances of marrying American pensioner William J. Brush and living with him in the United States when the man found out that she stole his ATM card and withdrew almost P80,000 from his account. Brush, 56, temporarily staying at the Lotus Garden Hotel on Mabini and P. Faura streets in Ermita, Manila, accused Baguio, of Cebu City, of stealing from him, said PO2 Romel Lim, of the Western Police District. Brush, who apparently met Baguio through the Internet, e-mailed her that their marriage is off, Lim said. After securing Baguio's immigration papers, Brush came to the Philippines to fetch her in Cebu and bring her to Manila, police said. But while they were at the Lotus Garden, Baguio stole his credit card and, on several occasions, withdrew a total of $1,565 from his ATM account, Brush told police. Brush told police he would no longer bring her to the US. ***Philip Tubeza***

Run over in Tondo

DRIVER Ariel Larosa, 29, was backing his truck at the North Harbor in Tondo, Manila, when he accidentally hit and killed his cousin Ismael Legaspi, 18, Saturday morning. SPO3 Wilfredo Estomaquio of the city traffic police said Legaspi, of M.H. del Pilar Street, Cabuyao, Laguna, died at the Philippine General Hospital in Ermita. Larosa, of the same address, immediately surrendered to authorities. He told police he was backing his freight truck at the entrance of Pier 8 when he hit his cousin. ***Jerome Aning***

'Cop' threatens to shoot Barber's singing aide

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE POLITICAL officer of Sen. Robert Barbers wanted to sing "My Love Will See You Through" inside a videoke bar in Ermita, Manila, but a man who claimed he was a cop threatened to kill him if he did.

Casangoan M. Dacula, 40, Barbers' political officer, said Dodie Alcaraz, who claimed he was a Manila policeman, was apparently drunk when he pointed his gun at him and threatened to bash his head with a beer bottle inside the Lotus Grill Videoke House in Ermita after midnight on Tuesday.

Dacula, of Room 502, 5th Floor GSIS Building, Pasay City, told police he was by himself in the videoke at the corner of Sta. Monica and Adriatico streets in Ermita and Alcaraz was with three companions, Tuesday after midnight.

Dacula said he was about to sing his favorite song "My Love Will See You Through" when, at 12:10 a.m., one of the men from Dacula's table shouted for him to stop.

He said the man cursed him then shouted at him not to sing.

Dacula said he approached Alcaraz's table and introduced himself as a staff member of the office of Senator Barbers, he said. But instead of responding politely, Alcaraz pushed him aside, stood up, pulled out his gun and pointed it at him, Dacula said.

He said he ran back to his table but Alcaraz followed him. He said Alcaraz had a bottle of beer and was about to hit him in the head with it, but his companion and a waiter pacified him.

Dacula said he had drunk three bottles of beer, but he claimed he was not drunk. He said it was the men in Alcaraz's group who were drunk since they had a big bottle of hard liquor on their table.

Dacula described Alcaraz as in his 50s and with heavy build.

Camacho . . .

From page A25

and changed his clothes.

He said that when he came out of his house to bring the vehicle to the garage, he was aghast to find the vehicle was no longer there.

The CPD alerted all the other police units for the immediate recovery of the vehicle.

Last Tuesday, Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor issued a statement claiming the recovery of at least 20 stolen cars in April and May following the arrest of three suspected members of the "Parohinog Gang."

The Parohinog Gang was suspected of being responsible for the series of car thefts in the city, which has earned the label "carnap capital" of Metro Manila.

Tor said in his statement that "statistics don't lie," adding that car thefts in the city remained at a "manageable" level.

But police reports showed that at least 87 vehicles had been stolen during the same period, including cars, motorcycles and other vehicles.

21 Pasay cops . . .

From page A25

area from a crowd of kibitzers and media people, to inform the district director and regional director, and to send a whole team of the Special Weapons and Tactics unit (SWAT).

It was learned that only two SWAT members were sent to the scene.

Piad, chair of a special committee created to look into the procedural lapses committed by the Pasay policemen, clarified that the committee would not recommend any punitive action against the policemen, but it would come up with corrective policies "if necessary." ***With a report from TJ Burgonio***

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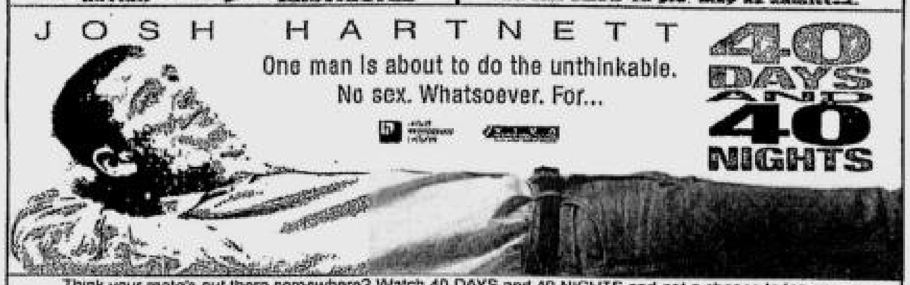
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Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 SELDA
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 HINOG SA PILIT
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
3 CASS & CARY
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8583

1 (DOLBY) MURDER BY NUMBERS
2
3
4 SELDA
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6 WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
7 (DTS) CASS & CARY
8 (SDDS) DRAGONFLY
9 (DOLBY) A WALK TO REMEMBER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 SELDA

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 CASS & CARY
3 SELDA
4 (SDDS) DRAGONFLY
5 WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
6 (DOLBY) RESIDENT EVIL
7 (DTS) MURDER BY NUMBERS
8 STAR WARS
9 LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)
2
3
4 SELDA
5 (SDDS) CASS & CARY
6 MURDER BY NUMBERS
7 (DOLBY) DRAGONFLY
8 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 CASS & CARY
2 SELDA
3 (DTS) A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
5 (SDDS) MURDER BY NUMBERS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 CASS & CARY

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 CASS & CARY

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson KILABOT AT KEMBOT
Lords SELDA
Jennet WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 CASS & CARY
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) MURDER BY NUMBERS
2 CASS & CARY
3
4 WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
5 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 OPENS JUNE 12 UTANG NI TATANG
2 OPENS JUNE 12, DISKARTE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 SELDA
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 CASS & CARY
3 (DTS) DRAGONFLY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 CASS & CARY
2 (DTS) RESIDENT EVIL
3 (DOLBY) DRAGONFLY
4 MURDER BY NUMBERS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 CASS & CARY
2 (DOLBY) DRAGONFLY
3 (DTS) MURDER BY NUMBERS
4 JIHAD WARRIOR

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 STAR WARS
3
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 K-PAX
3 (DOLBY) JIHAD WARRIOR
4 (DTS) DEATH TO SMOOCHY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 SELDA
3 CASS & CARY
4 (DTS) WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) DRAGONFLY
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 (DTS) MURDER BY NUMBERS
4 CASS & CARY
5 LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 MURDER BY NUMBERS
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 CASS & CARY

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 MURDER BY NUMBERS
2 CASS & CARY
3 DRAGONFLY

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 STARS WARS
2 SPIDER-MAN
3 LIGAYA PANTASYA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 (DTS) CASS & CARY

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 CASS & CARY
2 STAR WARS
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 PAGSALUHAN NATIN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) JIHAD WARRIOR
2 CASS & CARY
3 (DTS) DRAGONFLY
4 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING

CMG INTERNATIONAL

Murder by Numbers

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
3 DRAGONFLY
4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
5 A WALK TO REMEMBER
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 JIHAD WARRIOR
8 STAR WARS
9 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
10 PANIC ROOM

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 DRAGONFLY
2 STAR WARS 2
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
5 RESIDENT EVIL
6 MURDER BY NUMBERS
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1 DRAGONFLY
2 PANIC ROOM
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MURDER BY NUMBERS
6 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7 STAR WARS
8 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 STAR WARS 2
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 PANIC ROOM
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 MURDER BY NUMBERS
6 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
7 DRAGONFLY
8 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Imus
471 - 8188 / 875- 3838

1 DRAGONFLY
2 WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6 RESIDENT EVIL

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 SHOWTIME
2 STAR WARS
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
4 JASON-X
5 7 DAYS TO LIVE
6 BENEATH LOCHNESS

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 STAR WARS 2
2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
3 JASON-X
4 BENEATH LOCHNESS
5 DEATH TO SMOOCHY
6 SANA TOTOO NA

Star Mills-
Sn Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5770

1 FRUIT IS SWELLING
2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 CASS & CARY
4 DRAGONFLY
5 JIHAD WARRIOR
6 DRAGONFLY

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

A WALK TO REMEMBER

Late Night Screening
on
June 7 - 8, 2002
Friday & Saturday -
11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons
Movieworld
Galleria

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Center for Pop conducts emceeing seminar-workshop

CENTER for Pop Music Philippines founder and president Butch Albarracin, the country's leading educator and trainer in popular music and entertainment, will conduct a two-day seminar-workshop on emceeing and hosting, June 8 and 9, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Camia Room of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong.

Albarracin holds the distinction of training unknown individuals who later became stars. Among his products include Roselle Nava, Dessa, Geneva Cruz, Cooky Chua, Kyla and four "Miss Saigon" actresses. Others took another route to stardom like Donita Rose, Assunta de Rossi, Maricar de Mesa, Victor Neri and others.

Interested individuals may register at the Center for Pop Music Philippines, 73 Ermin Garcia st., Cubao, Quezon City. Or call 723-9375/ 727-5293 or 411-7310.

Liv Tyler movie available on video

LIV Tyler, the female lead star of the smash hit "Armageddon," sizzles on the screen as she plays Jewel Valentine in New Line Cinema's latest toast, "One Night at McCool's." The movie, which also stars Matt Dillon, Paul Reiser and Michael Douglas, is released on video by the C-Interactive Digital Entertainment.

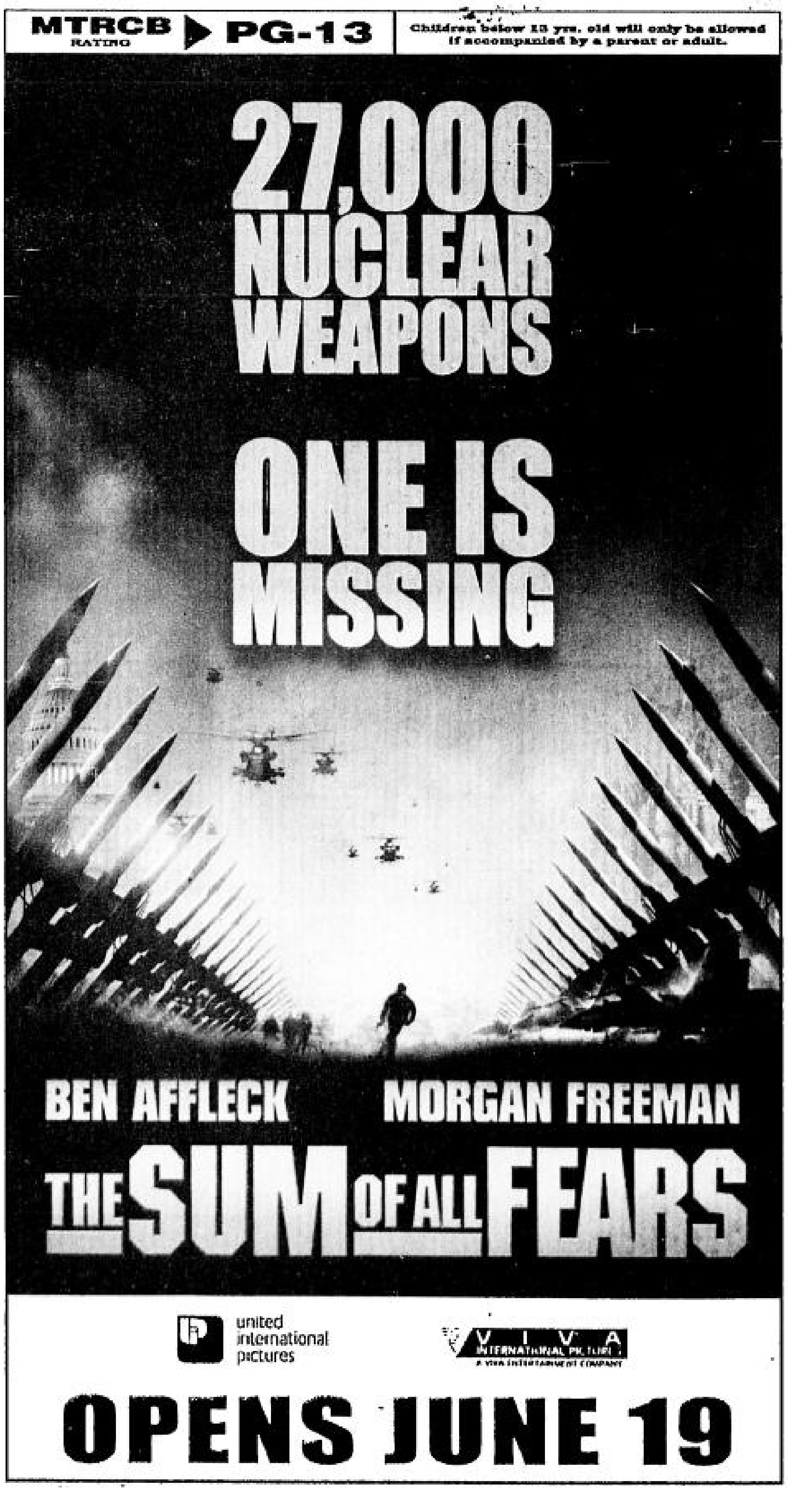
The film delves on the power of a woman over men and how sex can be a powerful tool for those who know how to use it. And Jewel is one hot lady who's so good at it.

For inquiries, call the Customer Care Hotline 245-5011 to 12 (Manila), 032-121948 (Cebu) and 082-2210405 (Davao) or visit video outlets nationwide.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	CASS & CARY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RESIDENT EVIL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	DRAGONFLY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MURDER BY NUMBERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	STAR WARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	WALK TO REMEMBER
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT / BEST FRIEND LOVERS
ODEON	MURDER BY NUMBERS
ODEON-2	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
ROBEN	SELDA
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	JOHN Q / BLACK HAWK
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
REMAR	SELDA
REMAR-2	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
B	CASS & CARY
C	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-2	WALANG IBA KUNDI IKAW
CINEMA-3	SELDA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JIHAD WARRIOR
CINEMA-6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-7	AKALA MO
CINEMA-8	SPIDER-MAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	STAR WARS
CINEMA-12	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
CINEMA-14	MURDER BY NUMBER
CINEMA-15	DRAGONFLY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-2	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
CINEMA-3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-4	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-5	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-6	A WALK TO REMEMBER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

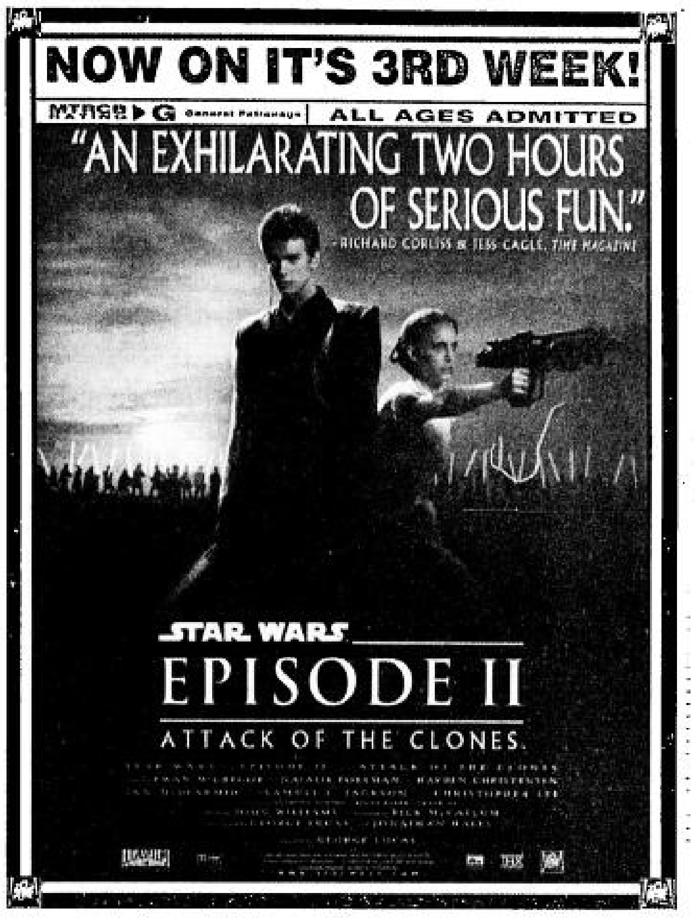
OPENS JUNE 12!
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
Si PIOLO
Ready na akong mag-commit! Pero, sino sa kanila?
I think I'm in LOVE
Directed by Maryo J. delos Reyes
An Official Entry for the 2002 Manila Film Festival
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. PRESENTATION
CELEBRATE FANS DAY WITH PIOLO, JOYCE AND THE ENTIRE CASTS ON JUNE 9, 4 PM AT SAN ANDRES BUKID ONYX STREET
PREMIER NIGHT ON JUNE 11 AT ROBINSON'S ERMITA CINEMA 6

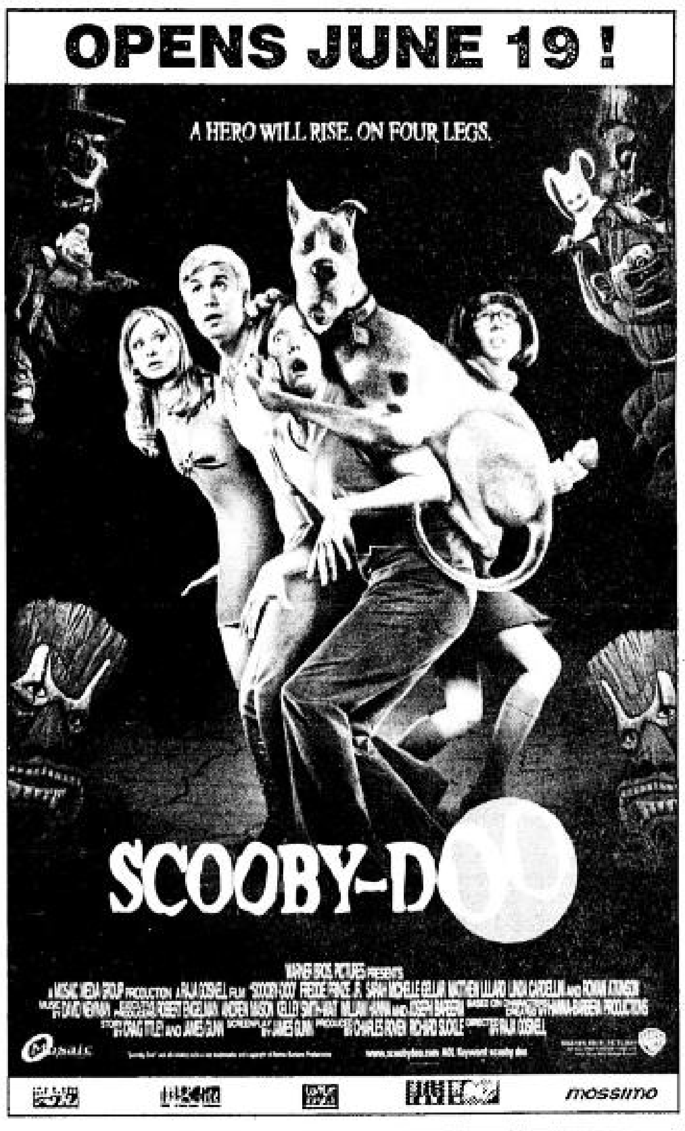

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
27,000 NUCLEAR WEAPONS
ONE IS MISSING
BEN AFFLECK MORGAN FREEMAN
THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
OPENS JUNE 19

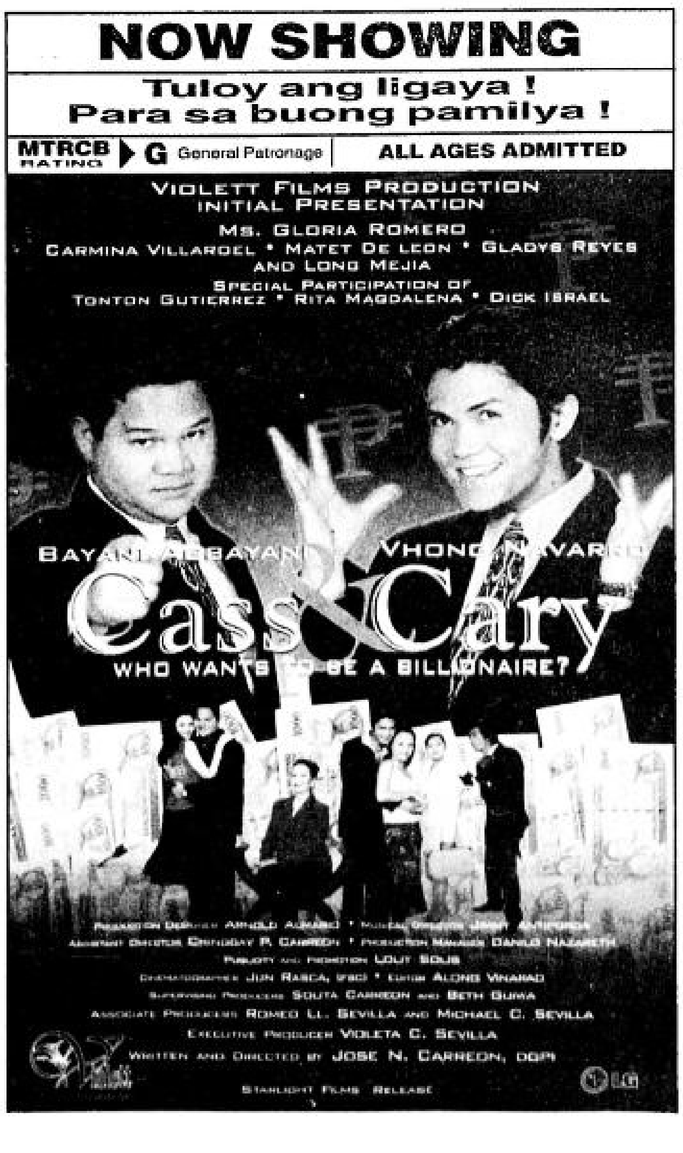
POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

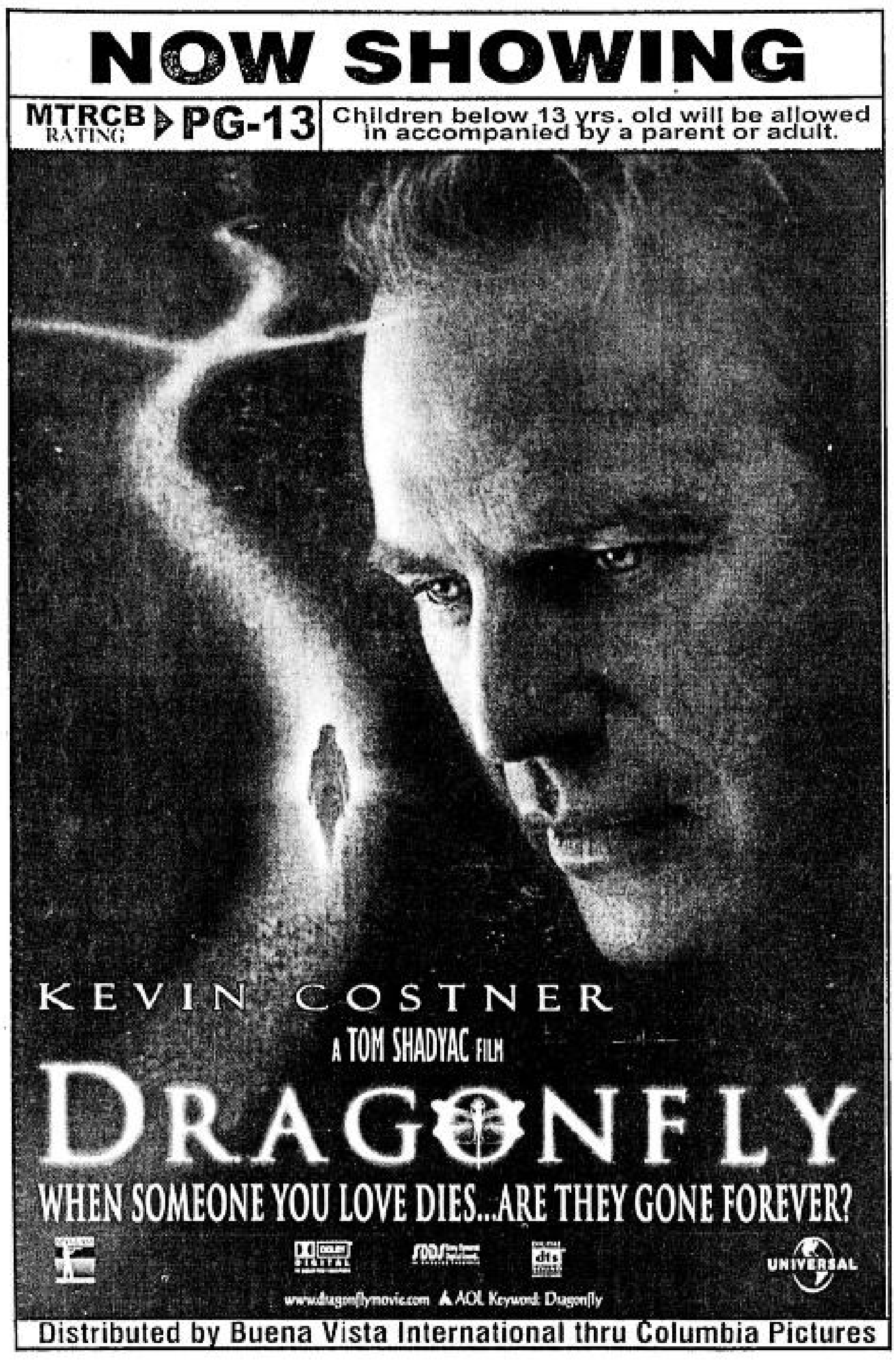
PANIC ROOM - R 18 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS - R18 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40	MURDER BY NUMBERS - R18 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
DRAGONFLY - P13 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	RESIDENT EVIL - P13 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 12:50, 3:00, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.


NOW ON IT'S 3RD WEEK!
MTRCB ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
"AN EXHILARATING TWO HOURS OF SERIOUS FUN."
- RICHARD CORLISS & JESS CAGLE, TIME MAGAZINE
STAR WARS
EPISODE II
ATTACK OF THE CLONES.


OPENS JUNE 19!
A HERO WILL RISE. ON FOUR LEGS.
SCOOBY-DOO
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
mossimo


NOW SHOWING
Tuloy ang ligaya!
Para sa buong pamilya!
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
VIOLETT FILMS PRODUCTION
INITIAL PRESENTATION
MS. GLORIA ROMERO
CARMINA VILLAROEL • MATET DE LEON • GLADYS REYES
AND LONG MEJIA
SPECIAL PARTICIPATION OF
TONTON GUTIERREZ • RITA MAGDALENA • DICK ISRAEL
BAYANI AGBAYANI VHONG NAVARRO
Cass & Cary
WHO WANTS TO BE A BILLIONAIRE?
PRODUCTION DESIGNER ARNOLD AUMADO • MUSICAL DIRECTOR JIMMY ANTIPORDA
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CHINGBAY P. CARREON • PRODUCTION MANAGER DANILO NAZARETH
PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION LOUT SOLIS
CINEMATOGRAPHER JUN RASCA, (PSC) • EDITOR ALONG VINARAO
SUPERVISING PRODUCERS SOLITA CARREON AND BETH GUIWA
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS ROMEO LL. SEVILLA AND MICHAEL C. SEVILLA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER VIOLETA C. SEVILLA
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOSE N. CARREON, DGPI
STARLIGHT FILMS RELEASE


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult.
KEVIN COSTNER
A TOM SHADYAC FILM
DRAGONFLY
WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE DIES...ARE THEY GONE FOREVER?
UNIVERSAL
www.dragonflymovie.com AOL Keyword: Dragonfly
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

BACK IN SHAPE. Charlene Gonzales hosts a more pro-active "Feel at Home" on ABS-CBN.

Charlene: I wonder how it is to raise just one kid

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

AFTER a year of marriage, **Charlene Gonzales** has gotten used to being called Mrs. **Aga Muhlach**. Last May 28, they marked their first wedding anniversary with an intimate dinner.

"How fast time flew after our Baguio wedding," Charlene says. "Now, we even have twins."

The fraternal twins—**Antonio Andres** and **Atasha Aaron**—are seven months old. This early, Charlene is already planning a theme party for their birthday on Nov. 5.

"The first birthday of any kid is usually marked with a big party and that's what Aga wants for our babies," Charlene says.

Since she gave birth, Charlene has devoted her time to raising the children.

"It's a full-time effort to raise twins," she says. "When one is crying, the other one is put to sleep. One is hungrier than the other. They have different moods and sleeping habits. The girl cries when she's sleepy. The boy cries when he's hungry. I wonder how is it to raise one kid."

But the first-time mom is hardly complaining.

"Aga and I take turns in taking care of the babies," Charlene grants. "When I'm out of the house, he is with the kids, and vice versa."

Now that she has to devote two taping days to her TV show, "Feel at Home," on ABS-CBN, Charlene says Aga is more than willing to do the parenting chores.

Charlene returns to TV starting tomorrow, when she takes over from **Tessie Tomas** in "Feel at Home." The show has been given a new format and is more pro-active, according to its new host.

"We've given it a different approach," says Charlene. "We will feature not just celebrity homes but also tackle fashion trends and forecasts, beauty tips, arts and crafts, cooking, and even sports."

The pilot episode will be a catching up of sorts on Charlene, who has been away from TV since September 2001 when her "Keep on Dancing" folded up.

"The show will feature the oil paintings I did when I was pregnant, mostly inspired by the works of **Georgia O'Keefe**," Charlene says. "I'll also tell the viewers how I was able to get back in shape through badminton."

Charlene went through a rigorous diet and exercise routine to shed her post-natal pounds.

"I gained 65 pounds when I was pregnant," she recalls. "And after I gave birth, I was still big and I couldn't wear my old clothes."

She went on a low-salt, no-oil, no-sugar diet, eating only steamed or grilled food. She also played basketball and badminton.

"I worked hard to get back in shape," she says. "I had to do it because I needed to shoot the Touch Mobile commercial last December, a month after I gave birth."

At the helm of "Feel at Home" is **Malou Sevilla**, who also directs the Sunday afternoon teen soap "Tabing Ilog."

In the next few episodes, viewers will get a bonus treat when Charlene features her twin babies.

"We will have a lot of tips for moms, like bringing up children the proper way, so for sure the kids will participate in my show," Charlene says."

In succeeding episodes, Charlene will give household tips on diverse topics like buying lean meat, scouting for the best bargains in *tiangge* or surviving a storm.

'Parade of Stars'

INQUIRER librarian **Medy Gregorio**, who hails from Baliuag, Bulacan, wishes to thank the show biz celebrities who joined the recent "Parade of Stars" in Barangay Makinabang, Baliuag, Bulacan.

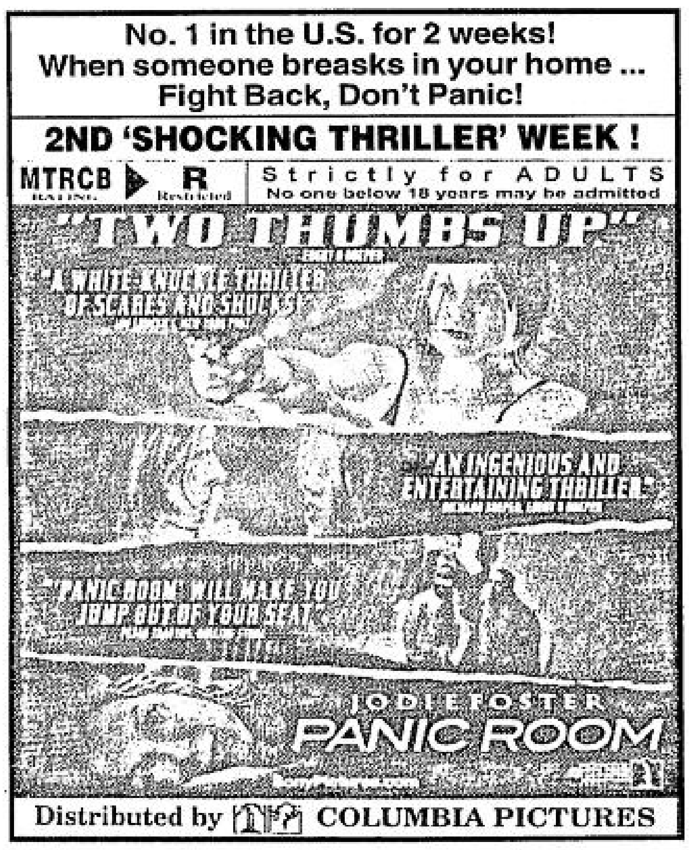
Businessman **Dick Samson**, a resident of Barangay Makinabang, spearheaded the event to show gratitude to those who patronized his product, Baliuag *lechon manok*.

The "Parade of Stars" has become an anticipated event every year in Baliuag, according to Medy.

Among the stars who joined the parade were **Joyce Jimenez, Anjo Yllana, Sunshine Dizon,**

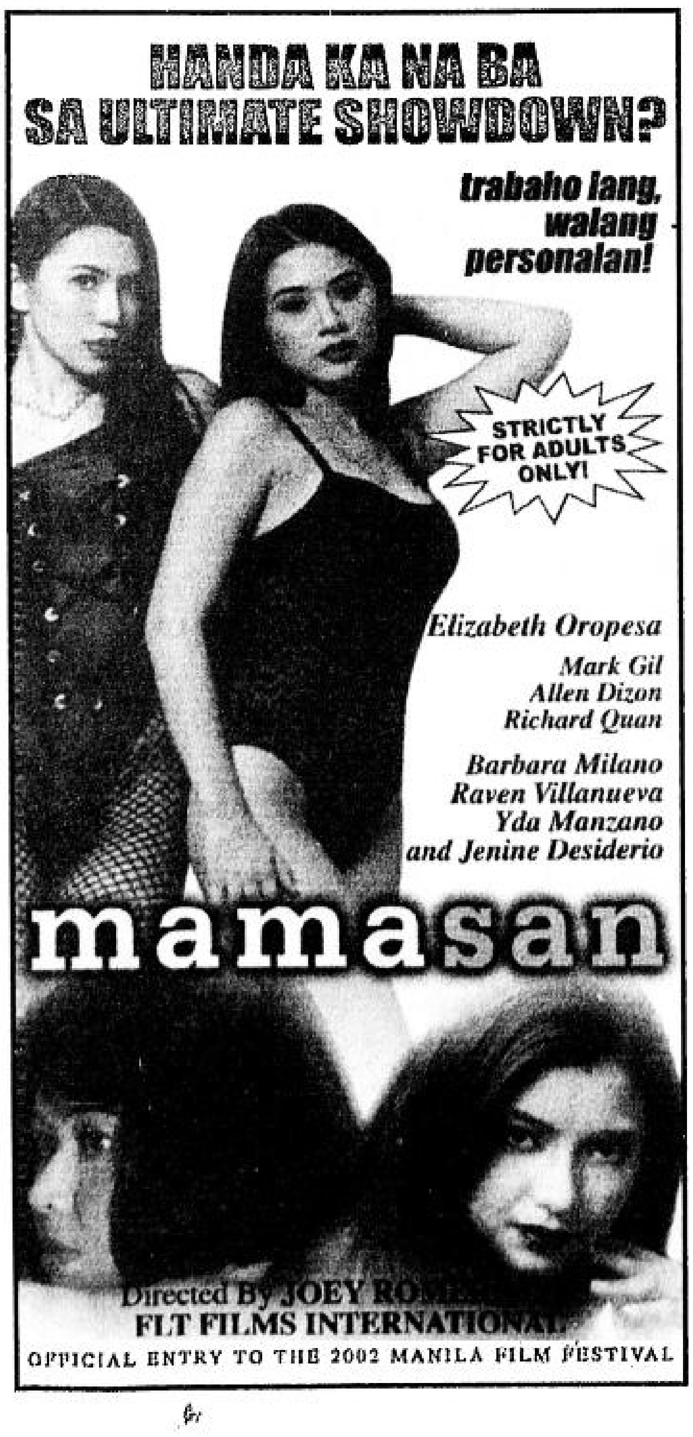
CHARLENE/ A29

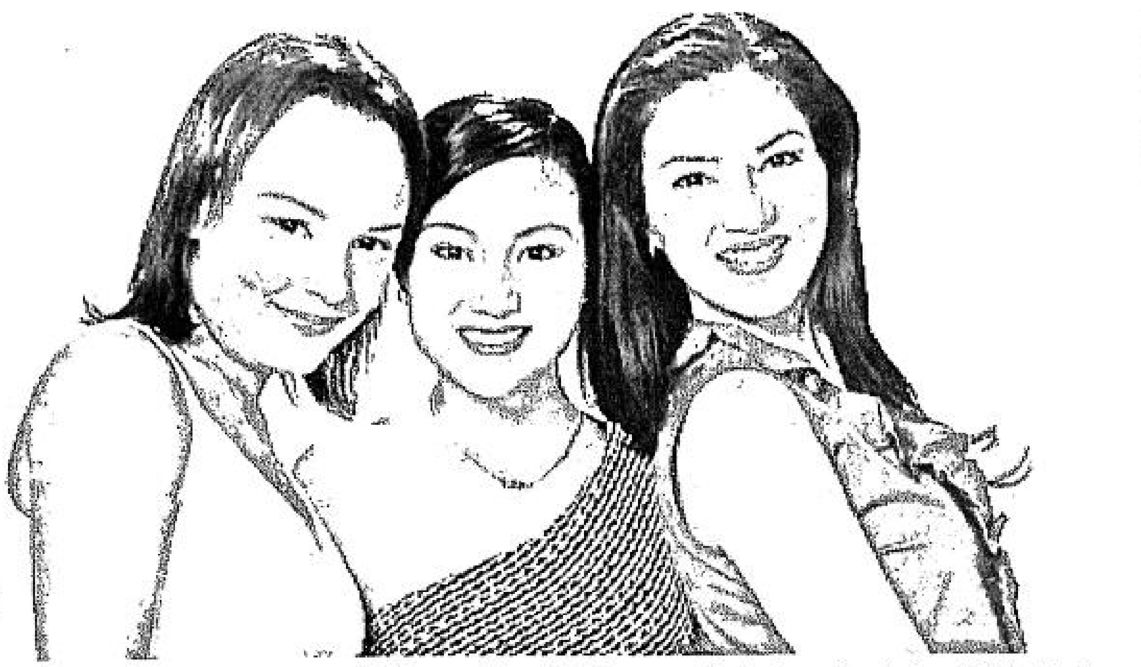
FREESTYLE. The show must go on.


No. 1 in the U.S. for 2 weeks!
When someone breasks in your home ...
Fight Back, Don't Panic!
2ND 'SHOCKING THRILLER' WEEK !
MTRCB RATING R Restricted Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 years may be admitted
"TWO THUMBS UP"
"A WHITE-KNUCKLE THRILLER OF SCARES AND SHOCKS!"
"AN INGENIOUS AND ENTERTAINING THRILLER"
"'PANIC ROOM' WILL MAKE YOU JUMP OUT OF YOUR SEAT"
JODIE FOSTER
PANIC ROOM
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
1 A WALK TO REMEMBER 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 GP
2 DRAGONFLY 11:25, 1:45, 4:05, 6:25, 8:45 P 13
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
MUSIC MUSEUM
JUNE 8 & 15 REIGNE ON TOUR (Regine Velasquez) 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

RUDY FERNANDEZ
ARA MINA
ang buhay ng tao ay parang sugal...
may nananalo...
may natatalo...
kanya-kanyang...
DISKARTE
MAVERICK
DIRECTED BY EDGARDO "BOY" VINARAO
OPENS JUNE 12


HANDA KA NA BA SA ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN?
trabaho lang, walang personalan!
STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY!
Elizabeth Oropesa
Mark Gil
Allen Dizon
Richard Quan
Barbara Milano
Raven Villanueva
Yda Manzano
and Jenine Desiderio
mamasan
Directed By JOEY ROMERO
FLT FILMS INTERNATIONAL
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE 2002 MANILA FILM FESTIVAL



CARMINA Villaroel (right) returns in "Cass and Cary," with costars Gladys Reyes (center) and Matet de Leon.

Charlene:

From page A29

Cogie Domingo, Aya Medel, Angelu de Leon, John Lloyd Cruz, Ciara Sotto, Maureen Larrazabal and **Aiza Marquez.**

Freestyle manager dies

CONDOLENCE to Freestyle vocalist **Top Suzara**, whose father, **Bolix Suzara**, died of a massive heart attack Monday night.

Bolix, who was Freestyle manager until the time of his death, was immediately cremated at the Manila Memorial Park. The wake is at the St. Jerome's Chapel in Ayala Alabang.

But the show goes on for Freestyle. Tonight, the group will perform at Virgin Café Tomas Morato in Quezon City.

For ticket inquiries, call 926-8039 or 373-8766.

Back to the big screen

CARMINA Villaroel went on a hiatus from acting when she got pregnant and gave birth in the United States. When she returned to the country, she accepted a TV assignment, "Recuerdo de Amor," on ABS-CBN.

It has been four years since Carmina last appeared on the big screen. But it wasn't hard to convince her to accept the comedy movie, "Cass and Cary," which topbills **Bayani Agbayani** and **Vhong Navarro.** The movie is the initial venture of Violet Films, owned by lawyer **Romy Sevilla** and his wife **Violet.**

Appearing in a comedy flick is a refreshing change for Carmina, who has been doing serious roles on TV.

Carmina's show biz career took off after she appeared as a teener in a Jollibee commercial.

Not a few noticed that Carmina has grown to be a fine young actress. Her steady climb brought her wide popularity until personal matters sidelined her career.

Carmina is thrilled to work again with veteran actress **Gloria Romero,** who played her grandma in the now-defunct sitcom on ABS-CBN, "Palibhasa Lalake."

"I really cannot imagine myself doing something else or being in any other world than show business," Carmina says.

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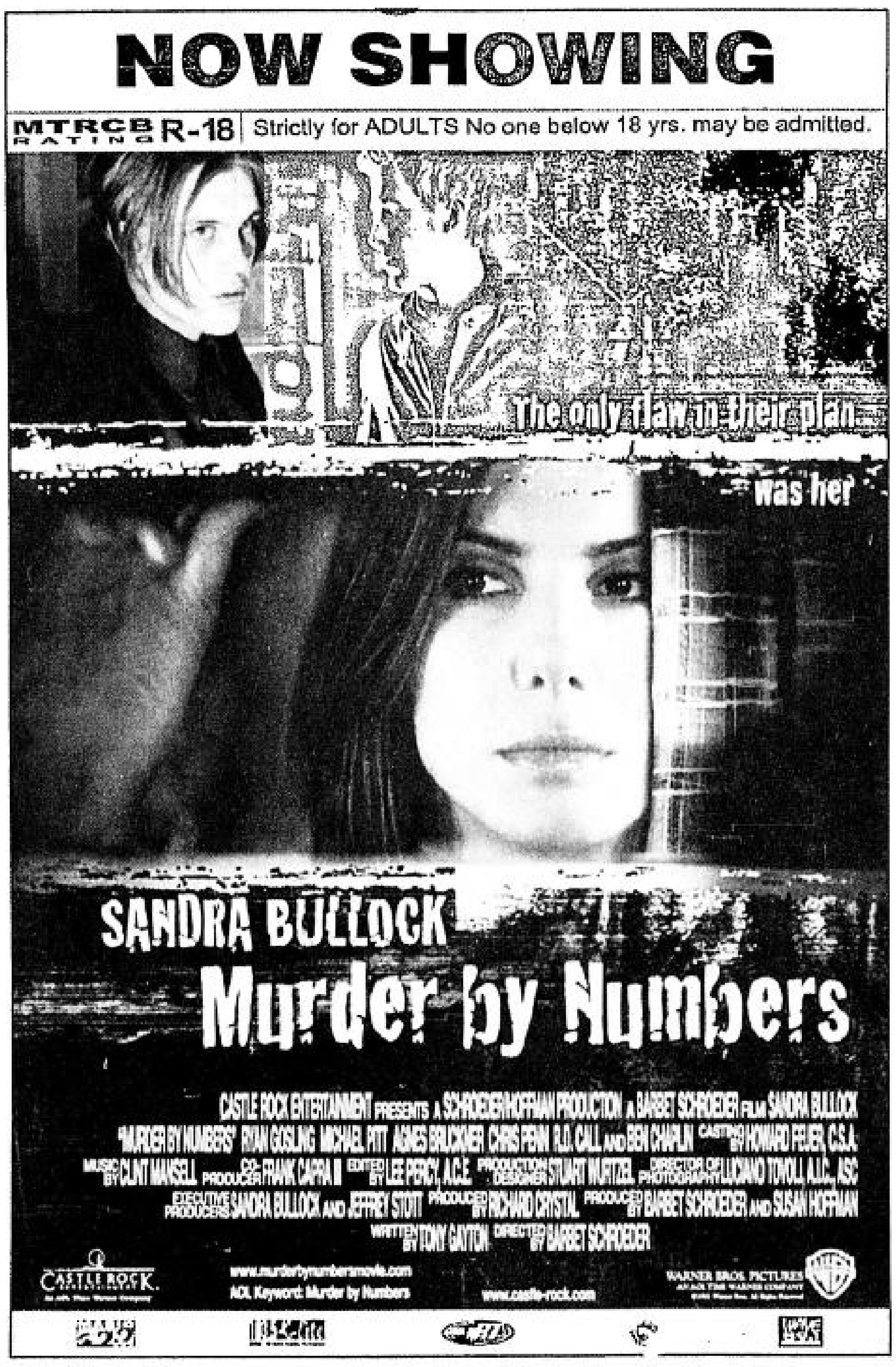

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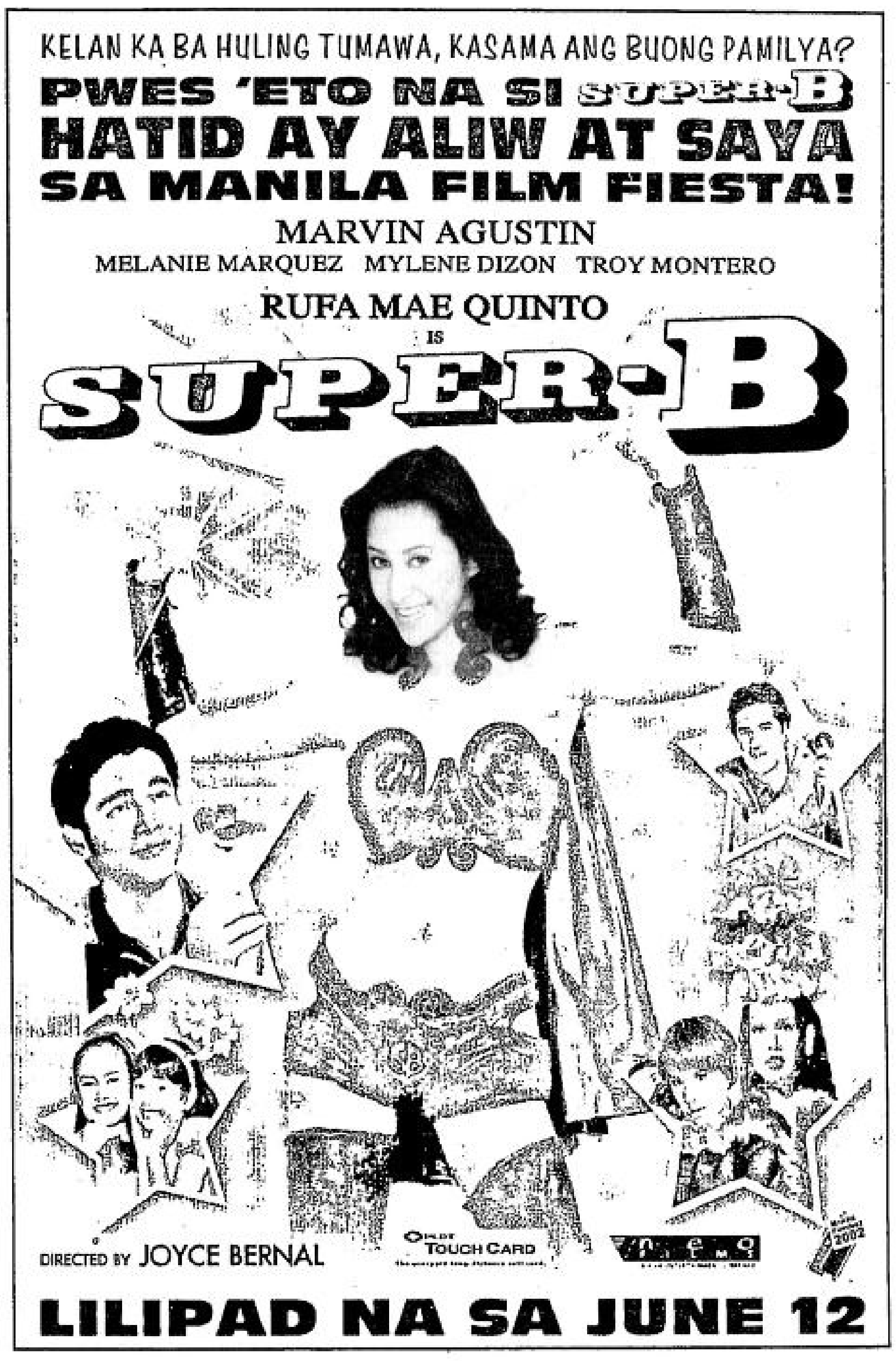

KELAN KA BA HULING TUMAWA, KASAMA ANG BUONG PAMILYA?
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HATID AY ALIW AT SAYA
SA MANILA FILM FIESTA!
MARVIN AGUSTIN
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1 CASS & CARY	1 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	1 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	1 MURDER BY NUMBERS 10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10	1 MURDER BY NUMBERS
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER	2 STAR WARS: Episode 2	2 A WALK TO REMEMBER	2 A WALK TO REMEMBER 11:55, 2:10, 4:25, 6:40, 8:55, 11:10	2 RESIDENT EVIL
3 KILABOT AT KEMBOT	3 MURDER BY NUMBERS 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00MN	3 MURDER BY NUMBERS	3 DRAGONFLY 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	3 A WALKTO REMEMBER
4 MURDER BY NUMBERS	4 DRAGONFLY	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 8:00 PM June 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	4 DRAGONFLY
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	6 A WALK TO REMEMBER			
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June 10-16, e-Lounge Glorietta 2.
Alabang
Motor Town 2002 Car Show
June 10-19, Activity Center
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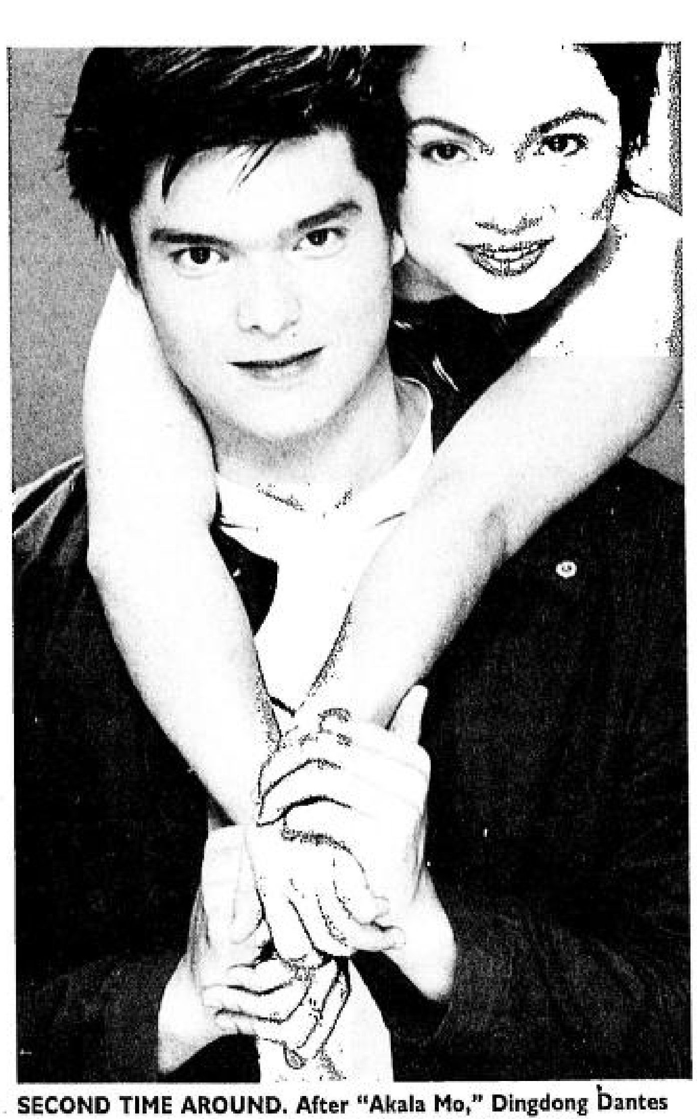

SECOND TIME AROUND. After "Akala Mo," Dingdong Dantes and Judy Ann Santos are paired again in "Magkapatid."

Will 2 movies prove Dingdong is bankable?

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

WHEN he was three years old, Dingdong Dantes appeared in a milk commercial, which was followed by a toothpaste ad. By the time he was 10, he was already in the movies, starting with a bit part in "Shake Rattle and Roll."

Dingdong's mom had found it hard to say "no" to people who kept on telling her then that her son should be in the movies.

In 1998, Dingdong became part of the young show, "TGIS," joining a cast of fresh, young talents whom Viva Films was grooming for stardom.

That same year also saw the rise of young love teams—Angelu de Leon and Bobby Andrews, and Dingdong and Antoinette Taus.

Sadly, the Dingdong-Antoinette pairing didn't help advance the careers of the two young stars.

While waiting for the big break, Dingdong kept himself occupied. He hosted a TV show while going to school to finish college.

Soon he was in the world of *teleserye* and in the arms of a new partner, Tanya Garcia on GMA 7s "Sana'y Ikaw na Nga."

As far as Dingdong's fans are concerned, he is now the prince of drama.

But Dingdong refuses to wear tags or labels, even as he works in one dramatic movie after another. This year, Viva cast him in "Akala Mo" (inspired by the hit song of Aiza Seguerra) and "Magkapatid," a Sharon Cuneta starrer.

"Akala Mo" was shown just two weeks ago. "Magkapatid" is Viva's official entry in this month's Manila Film Festival.

In both movies, Dingdong has Judy Ann Santos for his leading lady. Judy Ann may have lost the box-office queen title to Regine Velasquez but her name still sends the box-office cash-box jingling with success.

MTV director Lyle Sacris observes that there is chemistry between the two stars. "The *kilig* factor is undeniably present," he says.

In "Magkapatid," Dingdong and Judy Ann play husband and wife.

Dingdong admits he is a big fan of Sharon and Judy Ann and working with both of them is a dream come true.

"I didn't care whether my role in 'Magkapatid' was short or long," Dingdong says. "I have always dreamed of being included in a Sharon movie. Even if we don't have scenes together, happy *na rin ako*. I was even more surprised when I learned that Judy Ann would be my wife in the story. I couldn't ask for more."

In "Akala Mo," he portrayed a young businessman who is unaware that a female security guard has fallen in love with him. He describes his role as light and breezy.

In "Magkapatid," he is an unambitious rocker. He marries Judy Ann at a young age and by the time he is 17, he already has a son. The movie is megged by Joel Lamangan.

The success of the two movies will determine Dingdong's bankability as an actor.

MIKEE'S BABY
Mikee Cojuangco carries her youngest son, Rafael, on her arrival from the United States, where she accompanied her husband, Dodot Jaworski, who underwent an ankle surgery. Their eldest son Robbie was also with them during the trip. Mikee and family flew in at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport early yesterday morning on board a Philippine Airlines flight from Los Angeles. On the same flight were Lea Salonga, actor Romeo Vasquez, singing couple Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez, and Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Karen Agustin, who represented the country in the recent Miss Universe pageant in Puerto Rico.

ROGER MARGALLO

Programming for young viewers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MORE figures related to the "TV landscape" for Filipino children, from the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children's Television:

Of the total of 919 hours of telecast time each week, 212 hours are devoted to children's programs—that's a little more than 23 percent.

The free channel with the greatest percentage of airtime filled by programs for viewers up to 17 years old is ABC 5, with 41 percent.

Next come ABS-CBN 2, IBC 13 and Studio 23, all with 36 percent. GMA 7 has 27 percent, RPN 9 has 19 percent and NBN 4 has 16 percent.

This last figure is disappointing because, being the government channel, NBN 4 should in fact lead in the percentage of airtime it devotes to programming for young viewers.

In any case, some of the other channels' higher percentages shouldn't lull them into resting on their laurels, because those are general, lump-sum figures that don't distinguish between good and bad shows, programs primarily geared for entertainment, "infotainment," broadly educational, instructional, etc.

In addition, some of the channels' gains in terms of positive and wholesome programs for children are neutralized or downright negated by the channels' other programs that are of a racy nature and promote the wrong values. So, the picture is by no means as promising as some channels would have us believe.

The struggle to create truly child-friendly TV shows for the country's millions of young viewers proceeds apace.

Five new films

"THE POWERPUFF Girls Movie" takes TV's animated female-empowerment saga from the small to the big screen. Bubbles, Blossom and Buttercup reveal how they got their unique powers, became superheroes, and foiled evil mutant monkey Mojo Jojo's nefarious plan to take over the world.

The Powerpuff Girls were "born" to Professor Utonium when he attempted to create three perfect little girls, but unintentionally used "Chemical X," which gave them superpowers. With their incredible strength, infrared vision and kung-fu moves, they have a great time defeating criminal elements and defending the good.

The TV show has been so successful that it is not only the top show on Cartoon Network for the 2-to-11-year-old audience, but is also the network's No. 1 program overall. The film version is expected to do just as well.

War movie

"WINDTALKERS" is a different kind of war movie because its central premise is their mission to establish a top-secret code for radio transmissions. In 1942, several hundred Navajo American were recruited as Marines and trained to use their language as code.

In the film, **Nicolas Cage** plays a Marine who's assigned to protect a Navajo "code talker" (**Adam Beach**). His orders are to protect the code talker, but if he should fall into enemy lines, he's to "protect the code at all costs."

The Navajo code was the only one never broken by the Japanese, and is considered to have been a key factor in winning the war.

Another promising new film, this time a comedy, is "Just Visiting." French superstar **Jean Reno** stars as a 12th century knight who winds up in today's world.

The knight mistakenly kills his beloved, a princess, while under an evil spell. Grief-stricken, he hires a wizard to send him back in time to avert the murder. But the wizard's potion malfunctions, and the knight and his faithful servant are deposited in the 21st century, where they meet a museum curator who is the spitting image of the princess.

The princess and the museum curator are both played by **Christina Applegate**, and the knight's faithful servant is portrayed by another French actor, **Christian Clavier.**

Local films

ON THE LOCAL film front, **Bong Revilla Jr.** and **Assunta de Rossi** costar for the first time in "Kilabot at Kembot." Bong plays an undercover NBI agent and Assunta is cast as a bar girl who eventually helps the undercover agent nail some big drug dealers.

And "Super B" topbills **Rufa Mae Quinto** as a superheroine who fights the Flower Pot Girls, evil women out to wreak havoc in the world (played by **Melanie Marquez** and **Mylene Dizon**). The good news is that the fantasy-comedy flick is directed by **Joyce Bernal**.

'Memory of Dances'

THE PHILIPPINE Center for Investigative Journalism will launch the photo book "Memory of Dances" and the video documentary "Katutubo: Memory of Dances," at 6 p.m. on June 14 at the Li Seng Giap Auditorium, University of Asia and the Pacific.

The photo book features photographs by **Sonny Yabao** and text by **Sheila Coronel**, while the video documentary is directed by **Butch Perez**.

Lea to release live album in Broadway concert repeat

SHOWS

LEA Salonga returned to the country last Wednesday morning to do a repeat of her highly successful Broadway concert on June 19 at the PICC Plenary Hall.

Lea came to Manila after her well-received performance at the Tony Awards in New York last Sunday, where she sang during the tribute to Richard Rodgers.

In October, Lea will star in the Broadway production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, "Flower Drum Song," which she also did in Los Angeles last year.

While in the country, Lea will also launch and promote the live album of her Broadway concert released by BMG Records Pilipinas.

Lea's concert will be produced by Bayo, the garment line she is endorsing. She will be joined in the show by the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, to be conducted by her brother Gerard Salonga, who is also the musical director.

Lea's repertoire will consist of Broadway songs that most people are acquainted with, like "Maybe" from "Annie," "Fallin'" and "I Still Believe in Love" from "They're Playing Our Song," and tunes from "Flower Drum Song," "My Fair Lady," "Miss Saigon" and "Les Miserables."

The concert will be directed by Bobby Garcia. Special guests are Michael de Mesa, Calvin Millado and Carlo Orosa.

'Reign on Tour'

FRESH from her successful concert at the National Museum, Regine Velasquez performs in a two-night show, "Reign on Tour," June 8 and 15, 9 p.m. at Music Museum.

Regine will dish out tunes from her latest album, "Reign," under Viva Records, plus OPM hits and Top 40.

Virgin Café

CATCH the group that sang today's No. 1 selling single "S2pid Luv," in a concert at Quezon City's hottest entertainment place, Virgin Café Tomas Morato. Tomorrow night, June 8, Salbakuta sets the stage on fire as they scream, shout and sing their hearts out while they perform songs from their album "Ayoko ng Ganitong Life," like "S2pid Luv," "Di Karapat Dapat," "Jumbo Day" and a lot more.

VELASQUEZ

SALBAKUTA

Mutya ng Pilipinas airs on GMA 7

WHO will be the proud heiress to over 30 years of tradition and prestige?

Tomorrow night, June 8, 24 beautiful Filipinas in the country vie for the coveted crown in the grand coronation night of the prestigious Mutya ng Pilipinas 2002.

The 24 finalists were chosen from among 600 candidates all over the Philippines.

Feast your eyes on a beauty pageant extravaganza which will feature Jaya, Gabby Eigenmann, The Hotlegs and a lot more. Hosts are Hans Montenegro and Dingdong Dantes.

The beauty, pomp and pageantry of Mutya ng Pilipinas airs on GMA starting 9 p.m.

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THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
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Joey's Dance Nights
featuring RAGE @HARD ROCK June 19/8:30pm
JOEY'S ACOUSTIC NIGHTS
featuring Acousic Trio @ Crêpes de France
June 26/8:30pm ROCKWELL CENTER
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70's
SEVENTIES SWING-OUT
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from the decade of big hair and big hits comes your favorite dance tracks!
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FRIDAYS 9-12MN
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Three days in 'Paradise'

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I'M writing this column fresh from the flight that brought us back from what I could accurately describe as the nearest place to paradise that the Philippines has to offer—Amanpulo.

We were there three years ago, also to celebrate **Josh**'s birthday, but we were quite unlucky then because the rain just didn't stop pouring during our entire three-day stay.

This time around, we were blessed. Sta. Clara must have wanted Josh to have a memorable celebration because we had rain only during lunchtime on Tuesday. By 2:30 p.m. it was clear and sunny.

Josh, *Yaya* **Ana**, my good friend **Angeli** who's a certified "Aman junkie" and who just a couple of weeks ago was in Amanpuri in Phuket, Thailand, and I arrived in Amanpulo mid-afternoon on Monday. Amanpulo is on the private island of Pamalican, part of the Cuyo Islands among the 1,800 islands of Palawan.

The chartered plane ride was a bit more than an hour, but it was smooth and comfortable. Aman has its own private hangar, so you don't have to go through the crowds at the domestic terminal.

We were billeted in Casita No. 21, which was a beachfront casita. You can choose from among the 40 casitas if you want a treetop, hillside, or beachfront residence.

On our side of the island, the waves were a bit stronger than in the lagoon area where the speedboats, sailboats, and kayaks were docked. The baby sharks and fish swam around our feet in the calm water. The water was an incredible turquoise blue on our side, and the waves were powerful enough to almost body-surf on. The sand was super fine and so powdery soft that our feet sank in it.

For most of Tuesday we were in the lagoon area because Josh was keen on going boating. *Mang* **Leo** took care of us and we cruised around the island a total of seven times—two and a half times before lunch and five times during our late afternoon return.

Josh kept on begging *Mang* Leo for "one more round," but it was approaching sunset and I had to convince Josh that we would enjoy swimming and afterwards we could swing in the hammock outside our casita. *Mang* Leo was charmed by Josh because my son insisted on kissing him after we had docked.

Come to think of it, Josh has turned into a kissing bandit because he also insisted on kissing our Aman guest relations attendant who drove our golf cart to the Amanpulo airstrip, our plane's pilots before we disembarked, and the on-board security marshal.

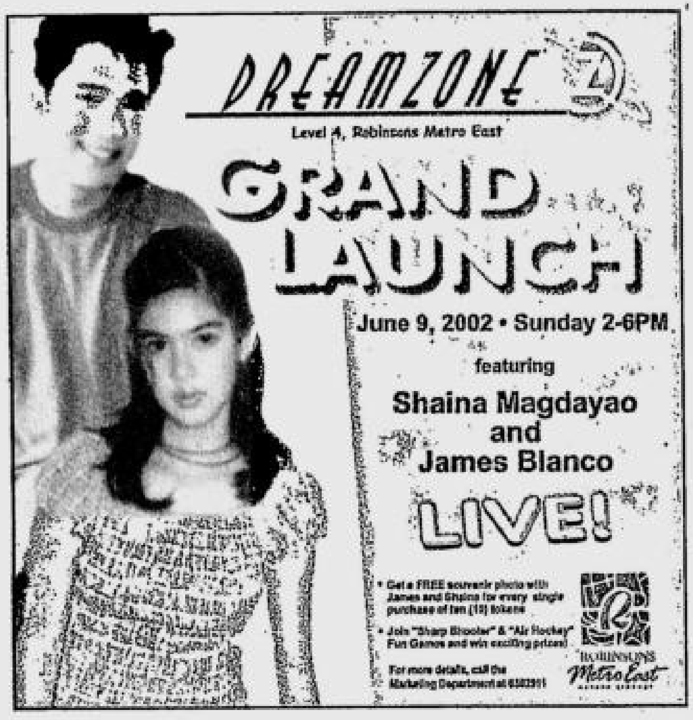
For privacy and outstanding service, Amanpulo is unbeatable. My only complaint is that they don't carry ABS-CBN on their satellite television system. Of the local stations, they have only GMA. The Amanpulo staff told me that on the other Cuyo Islands, they have SkyCable and that they all watch "Game KNB" during their quarterly two-week break.

There is no cell phone service, whether Smart or Globe, but their satellite phone service is very efficient and the staff keeps excellent track of the location of their guests. They were able to trace us when we were in the lagoon area and when we were in the clubhouse when Josh's dad called to greet him happy birthday. They traced us when Josh's "pretty *ninang*," my cousin **Rina**, was looking for us to check on how Josh was during our flight and to ask if he reacted well to the sedative I had given him for the flight.

His *Yaya* Ana was teasing me that Josh behaved perfectly on this trip because "*pang-sosyal na lugar talaga si* Josh." I was telling her and Josh to keep praying that "Smart Ka Na Ba" would extend its initial five-week run so that we could go back to Amanpulo for Josh's sem break.

For those who think that Amanpulo is outrageously expensive: Although it is pricey, it does offer a special Filipino residents' rate, which is about $150 less per day than the published international rates. The added bonus is that the off-season is until the end of October, when you can enjoy even more affordable rates.

The roundtrip flight is expensive, but paradise doesn't really come cheap, right?



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January-April budget deficit hits ₱82.96B

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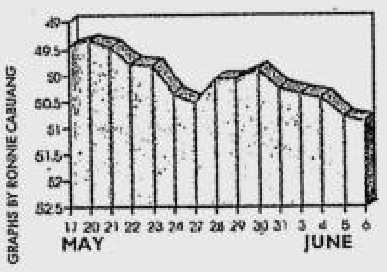


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.89 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 6, 2002

¥ 124.86 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 6, 2002

GOLD: $322.40/322.90
per ounce Hong Kong, June 6, 2002

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT posted a budget deficit of P82.96 billion in the first four months of the year, the Department of Finance reported yesterday.

The four-month deficit already exceeded the P78-billion target for the first half of 2002.

Finance Secretary Jose Camacho said the government would do all it could to achieve its budget deficit target of P130 billion this year.

"We will do everything we can to achieve the budget deficit target . . . we will only spend as much as we have programmed," Camacho told reporters.

Camacho said the low interest rate environment helped save P13 billion in interest costs during the period.

In the first quarter, the government incurred a deficit of P61.208 billion, equivalent to 40.6 percent of the programmed deficit for 2002, due to lower revenues and frontloading of spending to jump-start the economy.

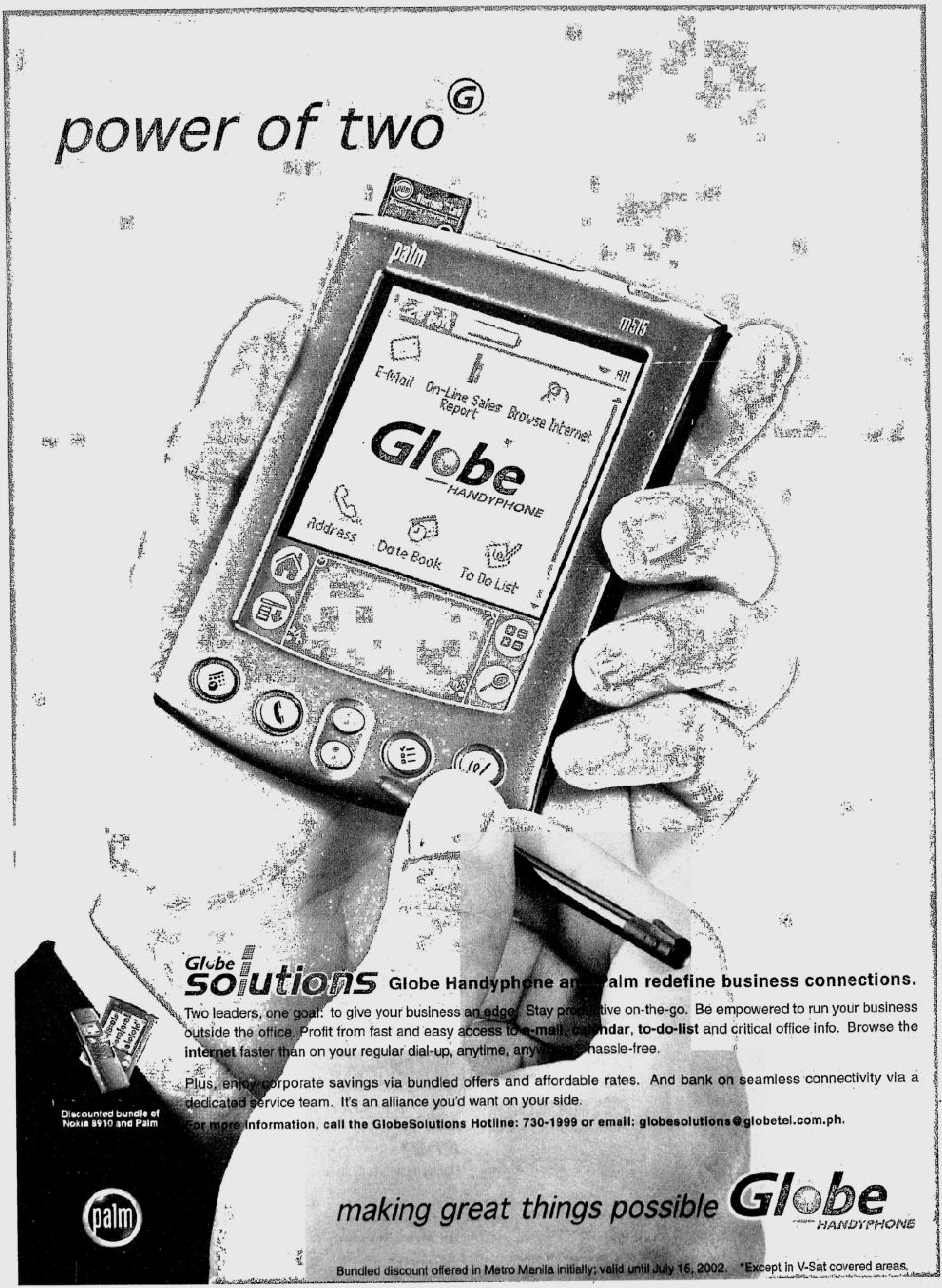
Total revenue for the January-April period stood at P180.73 billion, or 59.6 percent of the programmed level for the first six months of the year.

Expenditure was at P263.69 billion or 69 percent of the programmed level for the first half, the department said.

Investors have been nervous after government data showed revenues in the first five months of the year fell below the target by 16.1 percent, or P30.7 billion, a sign that the government may have overshot its budget deficit target for the period.

Foreign investor confidence has been largely tied to improved fiscal discipline since the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo took over in January 2001.

The goverment posted a budget deficit of P147 billion in 2001, or slightly higher than the target of P145 billion. *With* ***Inquirer wire reports***



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PLDT: Pacific loses dial tone

JUST as he presided during the heady days of empire-building, so shall he oversee the painful task of dismantling the First Pacific kingdom he painstakingly built in the Philippines.

PLDT president/CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan has been asked by his Hong Kong-based principals to take over the chairmanship of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. from current occupant, Antonio Cojuangco Jr., according to the Hong Kong grapevine.

The changeover will be effected this Tuesday, right after the annual PLDT stockholders' meeting. MVP is expected to carry the twin titles at least until the third quarter, when all the voluminous legal and financial documentation for the Gokongwei takeover of the utility and other First Pacific-controlled companies shall have been finished.

A *modus vivendi* had apparently been arrived at in Hong Kong on Monday after a lengthy, one-on-one meeting between MVP and Anthoni Salim, son of Indonesian tycoon and First Pacific Group majority owner Soedono Salim, amid reports that MVP was set to join the local shareholders in resisting the First Pacific-Gokongwei deal.

After the private meeting between the former banker and his Indonesian clients-turned-principals, the HK firm announced that MVP "has or may potentially have a conflict of interest in this regard."

Therefore, the First Pacific Group decided to keep MVP out of the loop, despite keeping him as executive chair, "(and he) will only be entitled to receive publicly available information . . . and will not be privy to confidential information in relation to the transaction."

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

In assuming the PLDT presidency during the 1998 takeover, MVP was also set to take the lead of the PLDT board, giving Cojuangco only a year as transition chair. That plan got waylaid somehow.

With another takeover impending, it is not immediately clear what role, if any, MVP would play in a Gokongwei-led PLDT or Bonifacio Land.

JG Summit chair James Go, younger brother of taipan John Gokongwei, was speechless and stupefied when first asked the question during Wednesday's press conference, until his nephew, president/CEO Lance Gokongwei, saved him with an MVP-is-a-capable-executive-with-plans-of-his-own spiel.

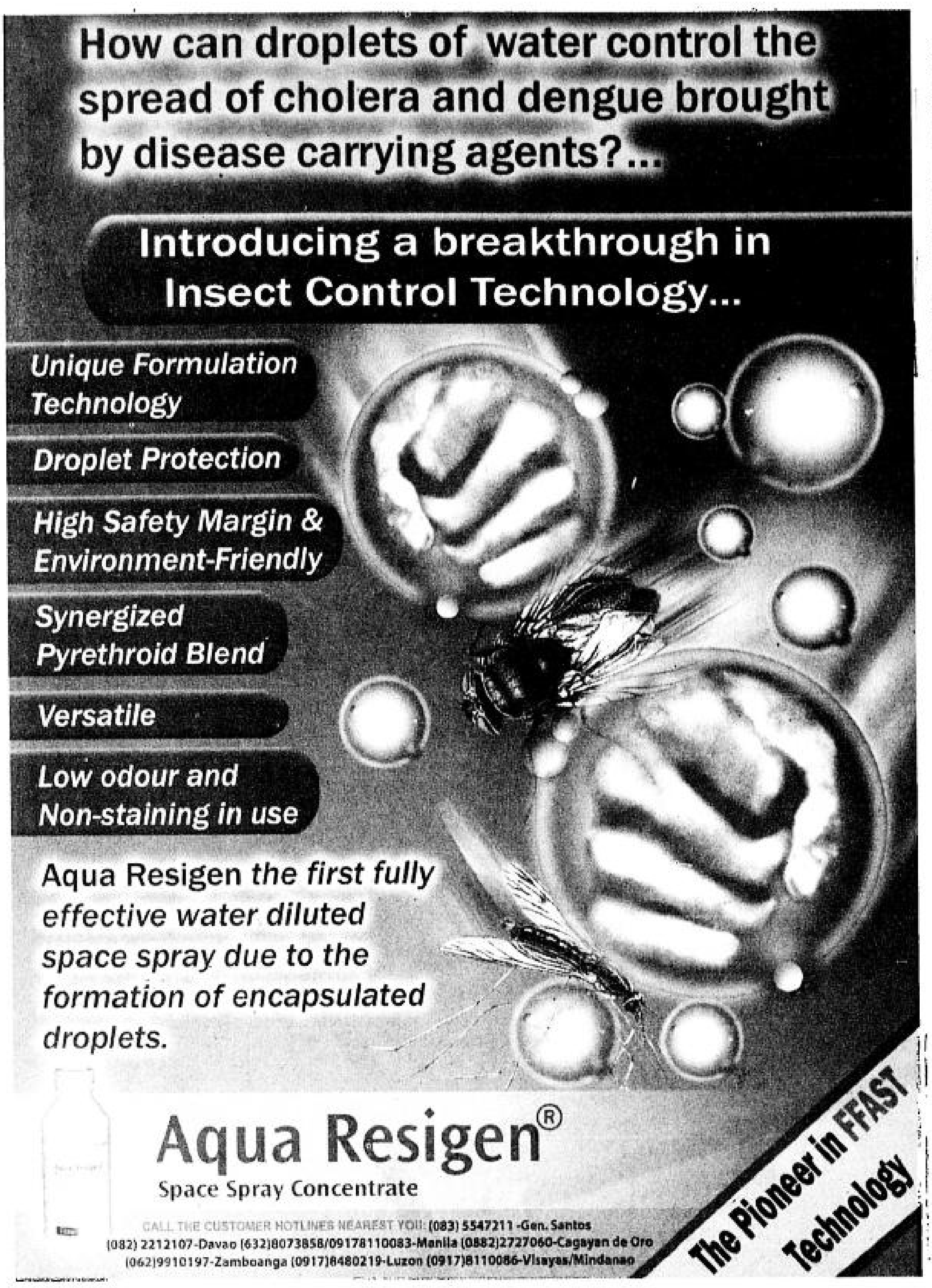
Based on the First Pacific disclosure statement issued also Wednesday in Hong Kong, "both First Pacific and the Gokongwei Group will have proportional representation on the boards of the relevant joint venture vehicles, PLDT, Bonifacio Land Corp., and other relevant operating companies."

The new set of board nominees will most likely take over by the third quarter, after the proportionate number of directors who will be elected Tuesday in PLDT's annual stockholders' meeting shall have submitted their resignations.

Cojuangco, in the meantime, has been attending an almost nightly meeting of senior PLDT officers, in a last-ditch attempt to thwart the Gokongwei takeover. Even then, Cojuangco and the Gokongwels have apparently been talking, mainly through back-channel parties, according to the grapevine.

Cojuangco, or his family, owns enough shares to be elected to a board seat on Tues-

COCKTALES/ B8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Vision

The design and build services and real estate development ventures of NESTOR S. MANGIO GROUP OF COMPANIES shall be one of the most progressive and prestigious in the country and in the world.

Anniversary Theme:
" PROVIDING A BETTER LIVING ENVIRONMENT "

CELEBRATING 30 Years of DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

My warmest felicitations to the officers and staff of the N.S. MANGIO Group of Companies as you celebrate your 30th Anniversary.

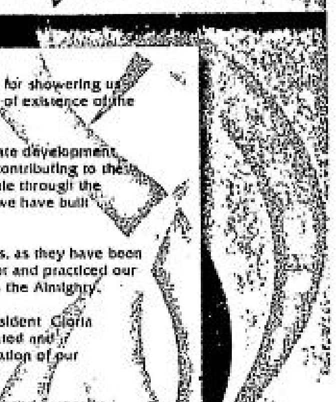
This event is a manifestation of your unwavering dedication in improving the field of architectural planning / design, construction and real estate. The active participation of your company to our national development efforts greatly contributes towards the economic growth of our country. I hope this gathering will strengthen camaraderie among your members and encourage you to continue your commitment to nation building.

I am happy to note that your organization, composed of architects and players in the construction industry, recognize the important role it plays in improving the lives of millions of Filipinos. May this event remind your members to be active in our efforts in rebuilding this nation and serve as effective tools in providing more opportunities for our less-fortunate countrymen.

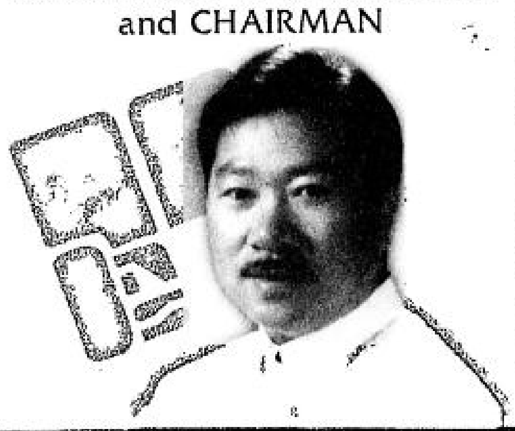
The government welcomes the efforts of organizations like the N.S. MANGIO Group of Companies in promoting the virtues of good governance, responsible citizenship, social justice and sustainable development. I therefore ask you to join me in steering our nation towards greater economic stability.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo
President GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO



MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT and CHAIRMAN



As we celebrate our 30th Anniversary, we offer our fervent Thanksgiving to God for showering us countless blessings and for granting us 3 decades of fruitful and rewarding years of existence of the N. S. MANGIO GROUP OF COMPANIES.

Through the years, we have become a progressive design and build and real estate development company. We have built homes, edifices and communities, which is our way of contributing to the social and economic development of our country. Our success was made possible through the patronage of our clientele, the support of our staff and suppliers, and the name we have built over the years.

Our Officers, Staff and Workers have made possible the realization of our dreams, as they have been our partners in achieving success for the past 30 years. We have steadfastly kept and practiced our tradition of work professionalism, personal integrity and faith in ourselves and in the Almighty.

Looking ahead, we take great optimism on the future of our company. With President Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo at the helm of our national leadership, we are highly motivated and committed to accomplish more and continue doing our share towards the realization of our country's development goals.

We offer unending praise to the Lord for bringing us success in the past 30 years and earnestly pray for more blessings not only for our company but also for our employees and our country.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Architect NESTOR S. MANGIO

Congratulations!

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HAULMAN TRADING & FORWARDING CORP.
RNP CONSTRUCTION
R.J.S. Industrial Construction & Development Corporation
FIBER FORM ENTERPRISES
P & P WELL DRILLING ENTERPRISES
O.T. AMORANTO CONSTRUCTION
FILIPINAS SHUTTERS, INCORPORATED
TRI-COLORS PAINTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
APCO ALUMETAL ENTERPRISES
FIRST SOLID BUILDERS, INC.
ARCHITECKS METAL SYSTEMS, INC.
ARC FABRICATOR & METALWORKS CO.
LOADBANK ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
G. F. DE SAN JOSE GRAVEL & SAND
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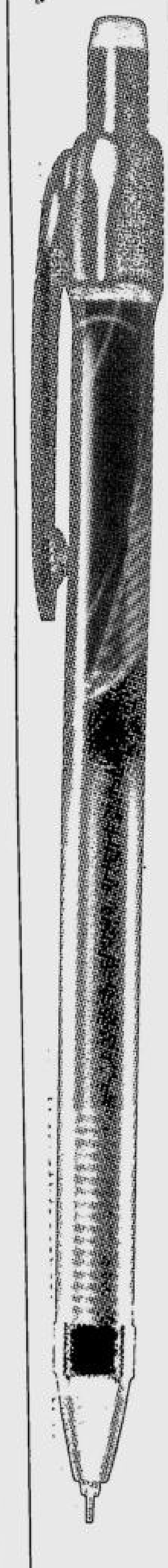

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Investors sue Consunji group, investment firms

By Doris C. Dumlao

A GROUP of 48 investors yesterday filed before the Department of Justice estafa charges against various companies and officials of the Consunji group, Abacus Capital & Investments Inc. and Keppel IVI Investments Inc.

The charges stem from the Consunji group's alleged failure to deliver on its promised projects.

Court records showed that charges of misrepresentation and misappropriation of funds were filed against Universal Leisure Club Inc., Universal Leisure Corp., Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. and DM Consunji Inc.

Also charged were Isidro Consunji, chair of ULC, URPHI, Universal Club and DMCI Holdings; Jose Merin, vice chair and president of URPHI, ULC and Universal Club; Alfred Lozano Jr., vice chair and chief executive of URPHI, ULC and Universal Club; Jovencio Hernandez, executive vice president of Universal Club and URPHI; Emmanuel Sibayan, vice president of Universal Club, senior vice president of URPHI and chief finance officer of ULC; Willard Moquito, vice president and comptroller of URPHI and ULC and comptroller of Universal Club; Edwin Laperal, treasurer and chief finance officer of DMCI and DMCI Holdings; Paul Soo, Abacus chair and Universal Club director; Fidel Bugayong, executive director of Keppel and director of Universal Club; and, Eduardo Gaspar, director of Universal Club and URPHI.

Abacus and Keppel were included in the complaints, as they underwrote and prepared the prospectus for the public offering of Universal Leisure Club in March 1997, which raised a total of about P2 billion.

The complainants said the owners of Universal Club shares were promised access to the facilities of at least five clubs and resorts. Only one business club in Ortigas, Pasig, however, was delivered.

The four undelivered facilities were:

- A mountain golf and nature resort in Mt. Batulao in Balayan, Batangas.
- A city sports club in Brixton, Pasig City.
- A mountain spa, golf and country club in Tanay, Rizal.
- An island beach club-resort in Puerto Galera, Mindoro Oriental.

The complainants said around P1.4 billion were spent on development, but none of the five clubs could show records to prove such expenditures.

Shares close lower on concerns over PLDT, Senate row

SHARES ended lower yesterday, weighed down by corporate concerns stemming from a joint venture between tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. and Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd.

After falling below its 1,330-point main support earlier in the session, the 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange composite index pared down its losses to close at 1,302.68, down 9.02 points, or 0.7 percent. On Wednesday, the index fell 1.1 percent.

Ayala Land Inc. was the most active, shedding 10 centavos to P6.40 on concern the Gokongwei-First Pacific deal would undercut the valuation of Ayala Land's prized properties in the financial district of Makati in metropolitan Manila, traders said.

DBCC approves revisions

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEVELOPMENT Budget Coordinating Committee approved yesterday revisions to this year's inflation, foreign exchange and interest rate targets.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas said the final numbers would be announced after the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

The country's economic team is working on a range that has already been announced.

Among the possible targets announced are 4.5 to 5.5 percent for inflation, 50 to 51 to a dollar for the peso, and 9 to 10 percent for local interest rates.

The original targets are 5 to 6 percent for inflation, 5,1 to 52 to a dollar for the peso, and 10 to 11 percent for local interest rates.

"We are finalizing the numbers for the targets we would be changing. It would be announced after the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday," Camacho said.

The DBCC has already revised the government's export growth target from zero to 4 percent, but a new target has yet to be determined.

Canlas said the economic growth targets of a 4- to 4.5-percent growth in gross domestic product and a 4.5- to 5-percent growth in gross national product would stay.

"We are on track with our growth targets, and we continue to experience a favorable outlook for inflation, which is why we decided to change the numbers linked to it," he said.

Nissan says recovery to take 2 more years

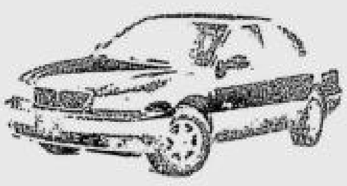
By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE LOCAL automotive industry will have to wait for at least two years before a full recovery sets in, according to Nissan Motor Philippines Inc.

NMPI president and chief executive Jack Wu said any improvement in sales in the next two years was "insignificant," considering turnover was still way below the pre-Asian financial crisis levels.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported a 6-percent growth in passenger cars and commercial vehicles in the first four months of the year to 24,496 units from 23,134 units during the same period last year.

But most assemblers remained skeptical over the industry's prospects since the sales figure came from a low base last year.



CEFIRO

The industry's performance was hobbled by plant closures due to labor strikes and low consumer confidence due to a political crisis last year.

The industry will recover by 2005 if the local economy stabilizes, the world's major economies rebound later this year, financing rates are kept low and the peso remains stable against the US dollar and Japanese yen, Wu said.

Despite the hazy outlook for the industry, Wu said NMPI would continue to improve its product line to maintain its overall market position. The auto assembler currently ranks fifth, with a market share of 8.2 percent, or 2,004 units sold in the first four months of the year.

NMPI yesterday launched the new version of its best-selling Cefiro model that, Wu claimed, had been No. 1 among mid-range sedans since its introduction in 1996.

Last April, NMPI unveiled the QR-V Serena to broaden its product line.

The assembler expects to sell 50 units of Cefiros a month.

The new Cefiro comes in two versions—Elite, which comes at P1.4 million; and Brougham VIP, P1.7 million.

Wu said the Cefiro was more comparable to the luxurious European brands based on its features and specifications.

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ICTSI to seek refund if cargo fees are rolled back

THE INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. said yesterday it would seek a refund from the government should the Philippine Ports Authority bow to pressures from the Coalition for Shipping and Ports Modernization for a rollback in cargo-handling rates.

ICTSI chair Enrique Razon Jr. said in an interview that the rollback that CSPM was seeking would cut ICTSI's revenues by at least P500 million.

"We'll have to get this back from the government because the PPA has already approved the hike after several hearings. Other port operators and cargo handlers would also seek a refund, which could run into the billions of pesos," Razon said.

The PPA approved a 10- to 15-percent increase in arrastre and stevedoring services in February last year and another 10-percent hike on Jan. 12 this year. It is currently reviewing a petition by port and cargo operators to raise fees by 25 percent.

DISCLOSURES

ALLIANCE Global Group Inc. will hold its annual stockholders meeting on Aug. 30, 9 a.m., at the Richmonde Hotel in Pasig. Stockholders as of June 24 shall be entitled to vote during the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Citystate Savings Bank Inc.** were Vicente Santiago Jr., Antonio Cabangon Chua, Alfred Cabangon, Armando Trinidad, Feorelio Bote, Joaquin Venus Jr., Wilfredo Cabangon, Godofredo Uy-Tioco, Leow Siak Fah, Leow Tze Wen, Anthony Tan, Benjamin Ramos, Arnold Cabangon, Alfonso Siy and Ramon Sin.

* * *

VITARICH Corp. **will hold its annual stockholders meeting on June 28, 2 p.m., at the Columbus Room of Discovery Suites in Pasig. Only stockholders as of May 29 are entitled to vote during the meeting.**

* * *

A. BROWN Co. Inc. bought 109,000 of its own shares at P0.50 per share. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, June 6, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	18,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	1,886,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort.	90	90	90	90	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56.5	57	56.5	57	33,000
China Banking Corp.	625	625	625	625	10
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	32,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	70,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	38.5	39	37.5	37.5	70,800
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33.5	34	30,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12	12	11.75	11.75	5,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	208	229	208	229	360
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1450	1450	1450	10
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1140	1140	1140	1140	750
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	28	28	28	28	2,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.73	0.75	19,240,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	660	660	660	660	820
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.037	0.037	10,500,000
Piltel	0.43	0.43	0.39	0.39	7,660,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	465	465	445	447.5	149,960
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.016	0.017	0.015	0.016	66,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.25	23.5	22.25	23	26,200
Manila Electric Co. B	32	34	32	34	2,458,700
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.7	2,163,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	80,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.5	2.5	2.42	2.48	1,136,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.25	13.25	5,404,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	34	690,000
RFM Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.24	1,085,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	48	47.5	48	20,200
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54.5	53.5	54	236,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	1,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	30,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	3,638,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.34	2.28	2.32	1,422,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	111,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.52	0.53	4,990,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22.75	23.25	22.75	23.25	131,400
Ionics Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.7	1.76	939,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.78	1,910,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.35	33,970,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	900,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Jardine Davies Inc.	29.5	32	29.5	32	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
Mondragon Intl. Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	27.5	28	27.5	28	1,001,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	815	820	815	815	1,060
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	48,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.4	14,577,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	210,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.34	0.36	350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.55	2.6	4,376,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.88	1.88	150,000
SM Development Corp.	0.89	0.91	0.89	0.91	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	8,584,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	2,100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	920,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	3,400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	30,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	37,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	200,000

CURRENCIES

June-06-2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.064509	1.000000	50.6490
Japan	Yen	0.008558	0.008039	0.4072
United Kingdom	Pound	1.554609	1.460400	73.9678
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136481	0.128210	6.4937
Switzerland	Franc	0.680111	0.638896	32.3594
Canada	Dollar	0.694714	0.652614	33.0542
Singapore	Dollar	0.592810	0.556886	28.2057
Australia	Dollar	0.608987	0.572082	28.9754
Bahrain	Dinar	2.823782	2.652661	134.3546
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.283869	0.266667	13.5064
Brunei	Dollar	0.594034	0.558036	28.2640
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000119	0.000112	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.025042	0.023524	1.1915
UAE	Dirham	0.289836	0.272272	13.7903
Korea	Won	0.000880	0.000827	0.0419
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.939400	47.5797
Argentina	Peso	0.294878	0.277008	14.1158
Brazil	Real	0.408171	0.383436	19.4206
Denmark	Kroner	0.134597	0.126440	6.4041
India	Rupee	0.021747	0.020429	1.0347
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.280134	0.263158	13.3287
Mexico	New Peso	0.109349	0.102722	5.2028
New Zealand	Dollar	0.517456	0.486098	24.6204
Norway	Kroner	0.135234	0.127039	6.4344
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017742	0.016667	0.8442
South Africa	Rand	0.107280	0.100779	5.1044
Sweden	Kroner	0.109597	0.102955	5.2146
Syria	Pound	0.024359	0.022883	1.1590
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031402	0.029499	1.4941
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000981	0.000922	0.0467

Punongbayan, SGV not merging

BENJAMIN R. Punongbayan, managing partner of Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A), yesterday announced that P&A's partners have disapproved the participation of P&A in the proposed merger with SyCip, Gorres, Velayo & Co.

This developed as SGV and Ernst & Young International yesterday signed a definitive agreement that made permanent SGV's membership to the Ernst & Young network.

SGV chair and managing partner Cesar V. Purisima and Ernst & Young CEO William L. Kimsey jointly expressed their satisfaction at the conclusion of their agreement.

"The association is a positive move for both firms, and will serve to further strengthen our position in the Philippines as the leading professional services provider. We are confident that this association will present many opportunities to our people and clients," Purisima said.

Meantime, Punongbayan said the P&A partners concluded that the proposed combination was not in the best interest of P&A's people, its clients and professional practice.

Punongbayan said that with the decision, P&A might no longer represent Ernst & Young in the Philippines.

P&A has more than 400 partners and staff and provide a whole range of professional accounting services in audit, tax, corporate finance and business support services.

The merger proposal came after Ernst & Young was tapped by SGV to become its partner after junking Arthur Andersen.

RP to raise $500M in bonds to plug deficit

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration plans to sell $500 million worth of seven-year bonds to help cover a widening budget deficit and raise funds for cash-strapped National Power Corp., banking sources said yesterday.

The government has mandated JP Morgan for the issue, which would be made through the reopening of an existing 2009 sovereign dollar bond issue.

A JP Morgan spokesperson said in Hong Kong the investment bank would not comment on the issue. Another banking source said indicative pricing for the bonds was about 290 basis points over comparable risk-free US treasuries, about five basis points tighter than the existing 2009 sovereign bonds.

"The bonds traded down half-a-point after the news hit the screens. It's trading at 102-103.5 and we are seeing local bids coming back to the market," said a senior bond trader at a European investment bank.

Part of the funds raised would be passed on to state-owned Napocor, sources said.

Napocor scrapped a previous attempt to raise $500 million in seven-year bonds in February. Investors view Napocor's stand-alone credit fundamentals as weak, with loan obligations at $6 billion and foreign debt financing requirements of $1.5 billion this year.

The government said last week it was looking to raise up to $1.1 billion to help Napocor meet 2002 financing requirements. *With a report from Reuters*

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325iA Limousine	2,600,000.00	910,000.00	46,944.44
325iA Exec	2,700,000.00	945,000.00	48,750.00
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MESSAGES

I WISH to convey warmest greetings and congratulations to the men and women of Pilipinas Teleserv Incorporated, on the occasion of the company's second anniversary, an important milestone in its mission to support and assist various government clients in serving our people.

We in the Department of Foreign Affairs welcome the participation of Pilipinas Teleserv in facilitating our delivery of passport-renewal services. We also appreciate the assistance of Pilipinas Teleserv in the much needed dissemination of information on passport matters.

The company's operational competence in meeting the demands of its various clients help achieve the government objective of efficiency in public service. This was my pledge when I assumed my position in DFA.

I hope that Pilipinas Teleserv will continue developing, over the years, the scope and quality of teleservices—not only in the Philippines, but also overseas. Its accomplishments could help provide our people a competitive edge in the global community.

Once more, congratulations.

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR.
Vice President
and Secretary of Foreign Affairs

RECOGNIZING the importance of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the development of the country, the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC) has come up with the vision of an *ePilipinas* – an electronically enabled society where the citizens live in an environment that will promote access to technologies providing quality education, efficient government service, greater sources of livelihood, and ultimately, a better way of life.

An area that provides a lot of potential in achieving this vision is Customer Contact Centers. I believe that the Philippines has all the skills and capabilities needed to excel in this sector. We are the third-largest English speaking nation in the world. We have excellent communication skills. And we have the ability to make the customer feel at ease with our inherent hospitality. All these traits give the Philippines the distinct advantage in building and enhancing customer relationships.

Pilipinas Teleserv, Inc. is one such company that has capitalized on the strengths of the Filipino people. And as they celebrate their second year anniversary, I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations on behalf of ITECC.

Their services like the NSO Helpline Plus, which requests for birth, death, marriage and no marriage certificates and the DFA Passport Direct, which offers passport renewal by phone, not only helps ITECC's objective of establishing the country as an e-services hub but also helps ITECC's other objective of offering better and more efficient government service to the people. These services demonstrate the many potentials of ICT. They are creative applications in providing better service. And they are steps towards *ePhilippines.*

Mabuhay.

PA VIRGILIO L. PEÑA
PA for ICT and
Executive Director, ITECC

WE are pleased to be a partner of Pilipinas Teleserv, Inc. in providing our people with alternative means of requesting and getting civil registry documents.

As you celebrate your second anniversary, we know that you have received good observations from people who matter most because of the kind of service that you have given them. This is clearly shown by your increasing number of clients who may have told other people about the kind of service that you provide. People from outside Metro Manila are also given options other than to come here in Manila to get their civil registry documents. That's a big help for them.

Pilipinas Teleserv, Inc. has also come along way. Your growth means enhanced public service. Your help is very much appreciated considering now that the NSO-OCRG is serving more than 10 times the number of clients compared to 1990. Your innovations have served the public well.

Happy anniversary.

CARMELITA N. ERICTA
Administrator and Civil Registrar General
National Statistics Office

I WOULD like to extend my heartfelt greetings and congratulations to the people of Pilipinas Teleserv, Inc. on their second year anniversary. It is indeed, an important event to mark their achievements and continuing dedication to serve the public, their customers and in doing so, uplift the image of call centers in the country.

As president of the Contact Center of the Philippines, of which Pilipinas Teleserv, Inc. is a founding member. I believe that Pilipinas Teleserv would continue to its dedication and commitment of serving the Filipino people and the call center community.

Again, congratulations and more power.

JOSE E. FERREROS
President
Contact Center Association of the Philippines

Pilipinas Teleserv: A Call Center Company with an Edge

OVER the last two years, Pilipinas Teleserv, Inc, has developed innovative call center based services that have changed the way citizens transact with the government. Teleserv has created services that offer not only offer convenience but also unmatched value to customers. The company has proven through its innovative services that it develops services that work. Close to 900,000 orders have been served by Teleserv in the last two years.

NSO
Helpline Plus
ANYTIME!
737-1111

Now, Teleserv open its doors to new frontiers. An impressive line-up of soon to be launched innovative teleservice solutions will once again capture the interest of Filipino consumers.

The company has grown from its humble but promising beginnings to become a call center services powerhouse running alongside other call center companies in the Philippines. In July, Teleserv joins the IT mission of the Contact Center Association of the Philippines (CCAP). The mission's main event is the participation in the International Call Center Management Trade Show in Chicago. This is probably the biggest call center event in the world and Teleserv will proudly showcase its services as a testament to the ingenuity of the Filipino.

DFA
PASSPORT
DIRECT

Two years of innovations that have served the public well

By Joel V. Nigos

SECURING a vital document from a government agency has always been a hassle. It is a daunting task that, if possible, you wish others could do for you. Save the long lines because it has always been that way. But consider the enormous amount of effort, time and money being lost in the process. An applicant, say for a certified true copy of his birth certificate, has to absent himself from work to go to the appropriate government office to apply. Good enough if it will take only half of his day to complete it. Oftentimes, the whole day is needed. The remaining time, that is if there's any, is reserved to rest the tired muscles and to get back the right consciousness lost while going through the tedious procedure. Hotheads are an added bonus.

Teleserv wants to be known as a trusted innovator in Call Center based Services

Actually, one day is not really enough. The first day is for the application of the document. Another day is still needed for you to get that desired document. Of course you know the need for those documents will not end. But you believe there should be a better way. Jun Yupitun, managing director of Pilipinas Teleserv Inc., says that this is the concept behind the birth of the company exactly two years ago today. "Pilipinas Teleserv is a tele-services solutions provider which focuses on effective system design and the application of new call center technology coupled with customer-centered service principles to improve clients' operational efficiency and productivity," he explains. He adds that, in fact, the company is created to address a litany of problems, like securing your civil registry documents with the National Statistics Office (NSO) or renewing your passport with the Department of Foreign Affairs. "This makes our company the pioneer in developing tele-services solutions for the government. Our systems not only handle a large volume of calls, they are also designed to assist callers with varying concerns," Yupitun relates.

Pilipinas Teleserv has two existing services so far, both in a tie-up with the said two government agencies—the NSO Helpline Plus and the DFA Passport Direct.

The NSO Helpline Plus allows application of birth, death, marriage and other pertinent NSO documents through the telephone.

By simply dialing the toll-free hotline 737-1111, applicants can access Teleserv's customer care officer who will assist them in applying for their certificate that will be delivered right to their doorstep by its courier partner LBC.

The DFA Passport Direct, on the other hand, allows clients to renew their valid Philippine passport through the telephone by dialing the toll-free number 737-1000.

Both these services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week including Sundays and holidays nationwide.

Leaps and bounds

For his part, Raffy David, Pilipinas Teleserv's marketing and quality assurance director, recalls how it was for the company two years ago. "That was the time when we had only a small number of applications of about 150 a day. But from then on, Teleserv has grown leaps and bounds. Now, the number of applications being processed for a day has grown to almost 3,000 transactions, that is for NSO alone. Who could ever imagine?" David relates. This, he says, clearly tells something about the company. "As we celebrate our second year, we look back at our achievements. This we can shout to the whole world proudly, 'that 55 percent of our customers are either referrals or repeat customers,'" David emphasizes. David says that this just means that people believe in the service. "As a business, we have also proven a working model for service that now have served millions of Filipinos," David points out. He further says that these broaden their resolve to come up with more innovative services in the future since the successful business model they have with Teleserv are all designed by them. "This, I think, is the most important achievement for us," David notes.

Customer Care Officer

We want the public to know that any Teleserv service is a service that they can trust

FROM left respectively: Jun Yupitun, Director for Operations; Jeffrey Villanueva, Director for Adminstration and Finance ; Raffy S. David, Director for Marketing and Quality Assurance (seated)

Proof positive: Over 450,000 happy customers, close to 900,000 orders

Continuing innovations

Jeffrey Villanueva, Teleserv's finance director and new product development manager, on the other hand, says the company is setting it sights in providing service to corporate clients aside from continuing to receive the trust the public has given them by patronizing the service the company provides. "We want the public to trust any service Pilipinas Teleserv will offer in the future. When we handle another project, we want the people to perceive them as only for their own benefit," says Villanueva.

He adds that there have been challenges along the way but these challenges, he says, contributed more to the improvement of their service and to the betterment of the company as well as to the employees it employs.

55 percent of Teleserv's customers are referrals and repeat customers

Customer Care Officer

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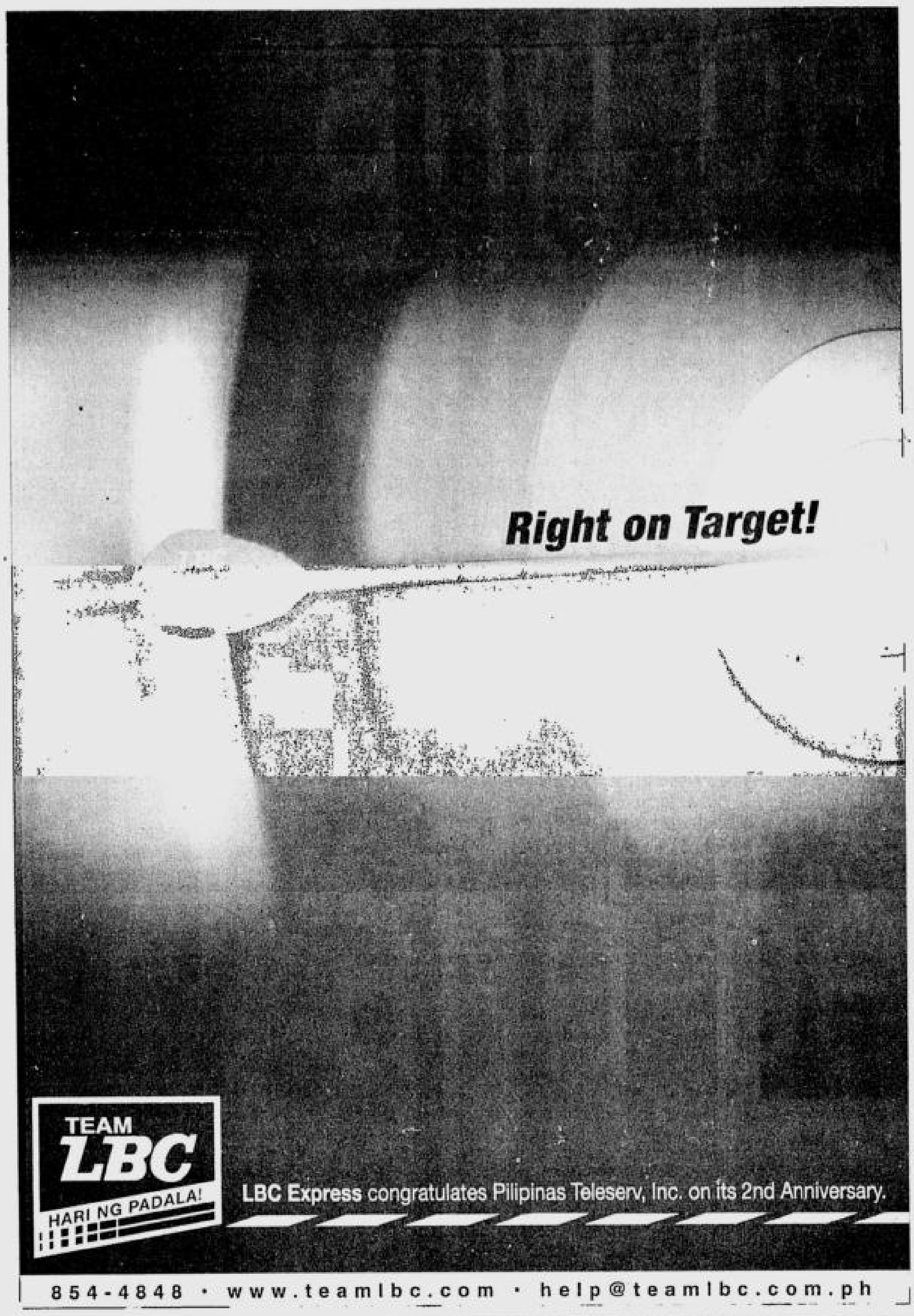
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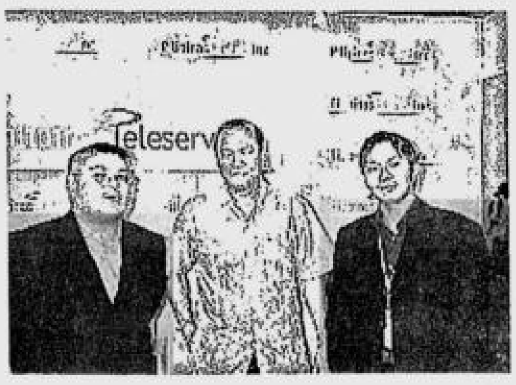

PILIPINAS Teleserv, Inc., a founding member of the Contact Center Association of the Philippines is happy to benefit from the CCAP's funding from the Office of Senator Ramon Magsaysay, Jr. for the forthcoming ICCM Conference which will be held in Chicago Illinois, USA.
Sen. Magsaysay is one of the champions of the outsource Contact Center industry in the Philippines. From Left : Raffy S. David, Director for Marketing of Pilipinas Teleserv, Inc. ; Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, Juh Yupitun, Director for Operations of Pilipinas Teleserv, Inc.

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WB seen extending up to $1.7B to RP

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD Bank yesterday announced plans to extend up to $1.7 billion in fresh loans to the Philippines in the next three years as part of a country assistance strategy to boost economic growth and sustain poverty reduction efforts.

In a statement, World Bank country director for the Philippines Robert Vance Pulley also announced that the bank's board had approved in Washington the Second Social Expenditure Management Project (SEMP II) loan worth $100 million. This seeks to improve basic social services in the country through three departments—education, health and social welfare.

The first SEMP facility, also worth $100 million, was used to implement reforms in the Department of Education, Culture and Sports that resulted in budget savings of $20 million or roughly P1 billion.

The budget for the entire three-year period will depend on the pace of policy and institutional reforms, government revenue mobilization and budget management as well as the portfolio performance of the government.

The bank, in the statement, said it was willing to provide at least $1 billion for the project but the amount could go up to $1.7 billion.

"As the Philippines emerges from a period of modest economic growth and persistent poverty, it is more important now that the World Bank supports efforts to increase economic growth and improve the lives of Filipinos, especially the poor," Pulley said.

Cocktales . . .

From page B2

day. The same holds true for the family of taipan Alfonso Yuchengco.

Winners and likely losers

THE IMPENDING Gokongwei takeover of PLDT/Smart/Piltel/Infocom/HomeCable/NBC Radio already portents a tectonic shift in the volatile advertising industry.

PLDT and Smart alone bought a total of P2.7 billion (rack rate) in advertising space/broadcast time last year, excluding an undetermined amount of creative/production budget spent on their agencies, Ace/Saatchi & Saatchi and DDB Needham. (Strangely, the latter is not even listed in the Yellow Pages, despite being a multinational).

DDB Needham already has a foot within the Gokongwei camp, being one of the agencies retained by the JG Summit Group, along with Harrison (a sister company of McCann-Erickson), Basic, Campaigns & Grey, and PCV.

For 2001, the JG Summit Group's (Digitel, Universal Robina, Robinsons', Cebu Pacific) combined advertising and promotions budget ran well over P1 billion.

The epicenter to any tectonic realignment will be unleashed by a petite Gokongwei niece, Patricia Go, a former account executive at Basic. Like her uncles, cost efficiency (in Tagalog, *tawaran*) runs in the blood of this Go.

On the auditing front, SGV would likely have the last laugh and snatch back the PLDT account from Joaquin Cunanan, after having been unceremoniously shown the door in 1999 following the belated discovery of Piltel's multibillion-peso debt sinkhole.

As if a portentous sign, SGV vice chair David Balangue was even invited to join the board of directors' table by Mr. John following the annual stockholders' meeting of Universal Robina Corp. last week.

And, of course, Mr. John's ally, stockbroker/insurance tycoon Robert Coyiuto, has been chomping at the bit all these years over the near-exclusive hold of Malayan Insurance over the estimated P800-million/year insurance premium of PLDT.

The PLDT business is key to Coyiuto's burning ambition for his Prudential Guarantee to wrest the non-life insurance crown from the Yuchengcos.

The annual PLDT insurance coverage, incidentally, is up for renewal on July 1.

Heard through the grapevine

THE TALK N Text team would most likely be disbanded after taipan John Gokongwei shall have assumed control of PLDT/Smart/Piltel, following the policy of the JG Summit Group to stay away from the Philippine Basketball Association or similar sports conferences.

Punongbayan & Araullo yesterday decided to break off from the announced merger with SGV. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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Shell completes Malampaya well test

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SHELL Philippines Exploration BV yesterday said it had wrapped up the extended well test on the Malampaya-10 oil well, which would determine the commercial viability of the oil reserve in the area.

Spex spokesperson Ding Roco said in an interview that the firm was now analyzing data obtained from the test.

"This will tell us whether (the oil field) is viable and whether we should continue oil production," Roco said.

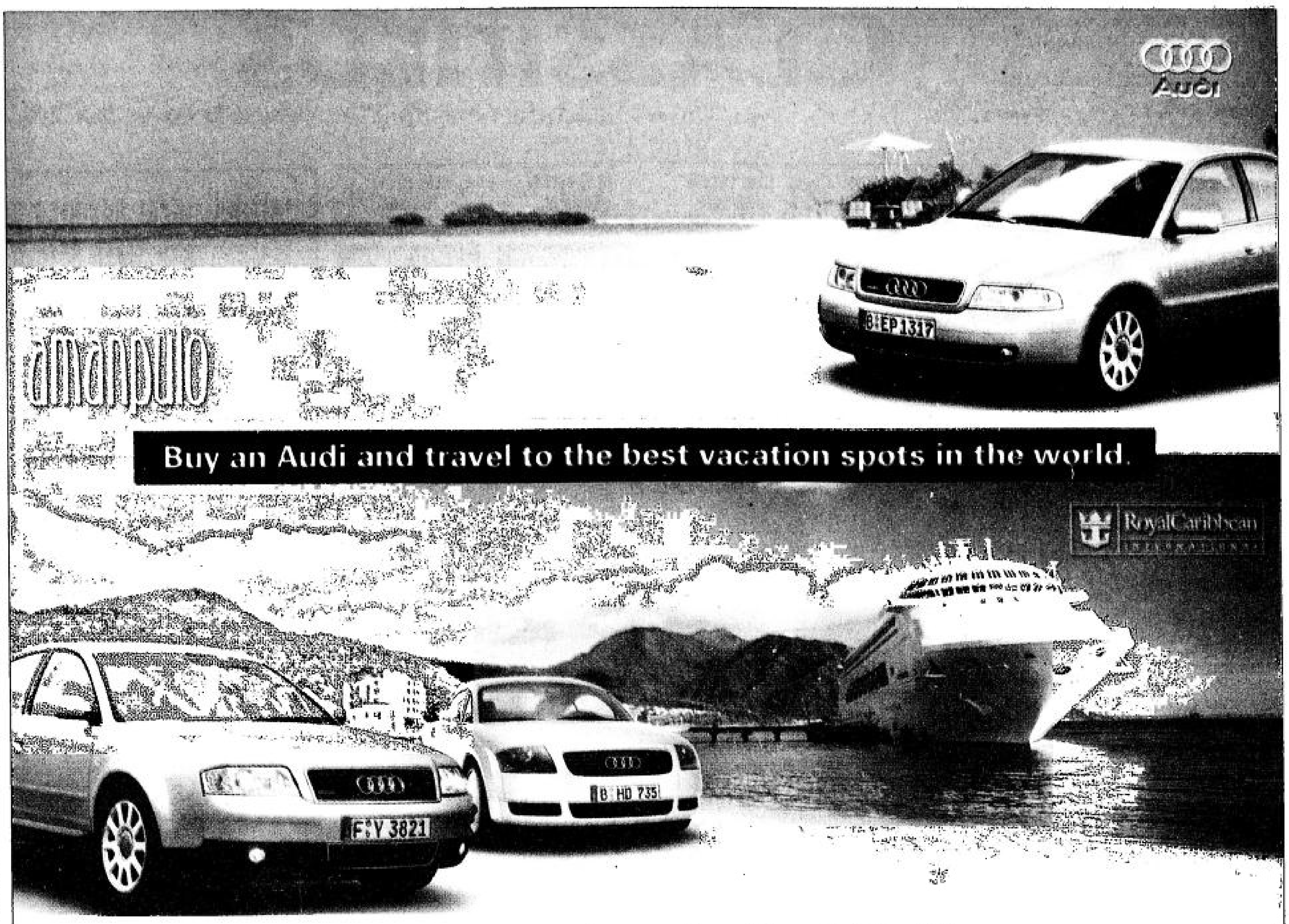
He added that it would take six months to a year before the results of the evaluation could be completed.

"We were able to flow oil from the well from December to April," Roco said. "The flow rate seems strong all (throughout that period)."

He added that Spex had delivered the third shipment of 650,000 barrels of Malampaya crude to a client in Singapore.

The Spex official said that shipment made a total of 1.2 million barrels produced since December last year.

The earlier shipments were sent to a ChevronTexaco unit in South Korea.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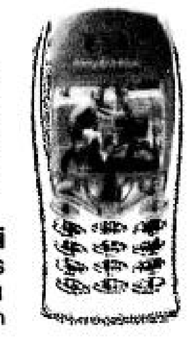

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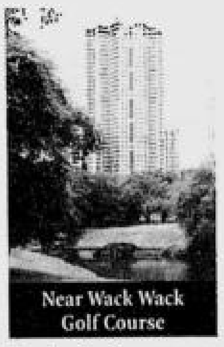
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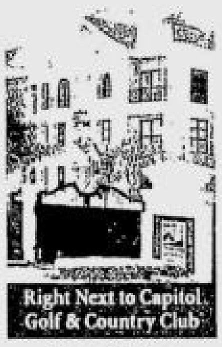
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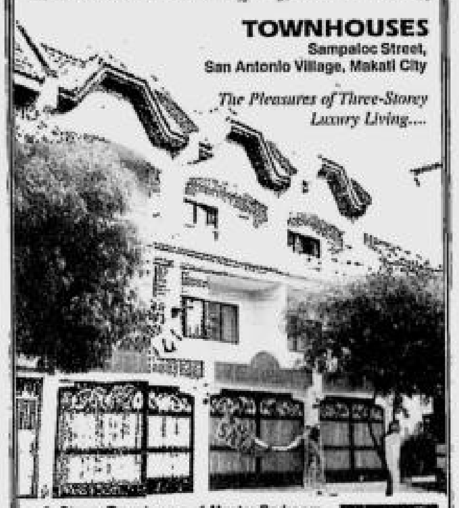

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INVITATION TO BID

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. is inviting all interested and qualified bidders to participate in the bidding for 100 units Rental Vehicles.

A prebid conference is scheduled on June 17, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Corporate Logistics Conference Room.

Bid forms are now available and can be secured at Purchasing Department, Basement, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos only (P500.00).

Deadline for submission of Bid Proposal in a sealed envelope shall be on June 21, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. Late bids will not be entertained.

MWSI reserves the right to reject any or all bids proposal, waive any formality or defect therein and will accept only the bid which is most advantageous to MWSI.

(Sgd.) IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ
AVP-Corporate Logistics

(PDI - June 7, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the ESTATE of the late JEANETTE L. MENDOZA was EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED among her heirs as per deed of extrajudicial settlement (Doc. No. 80, Page No. 17, Book No. 57, Series of 2002 of the Notarial Register of Notary Public Concepcion M. Juatas of Paranaque City,Metro Manila
(PDI-June7, 14 & 21,2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Vicenta M. Caluya has been extra-judicially settled among her heirs on June 4, 2002 as per Doc. No. 22364, Page No. 59, Book No. 44, Series of 2002 before Atty. Danilo Banares Notary Public for Makati City
(PDI-June 7,14 & 21,2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given on the lost of 30 shares of stock certificate of Rural Bank of Cabuyao, Inc. issued to RAMON G. MERCADO. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued
(PDI-May 31,June 7&14, 2002)

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PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Consulting Services for the Biological Resources Assessment of the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (PHI/99/G31 and PHI/99/014)

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the "Biological Resources Assessment of the Samar Island Biodiversity Project", a sub-contract under the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP).

SIBP is an eight-year project implemented by the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with funding assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project aims to protect a representative sample of the biodiversity of the Philippine archipelago by establishing the Samar Island National Park (SINP), covering an area of 347,000 hectares with surrounding buffer of 123,000 hectares. One of the major activities of the project is to design and execute a bi-annual Biological Resources Assessment in selected sites within the proposed SINP.

The project therefore requires the services of a consulting firm to conduct the Biological Resources Assessment Study aimed at establishing baseline information on existing flora and faunal resources, including critical habitats and indicator species of the proposed area. These information would serve not only as inputs to the formulation of the protected area management plan and the establishment of its management zones but also as basis for monitoring of the proposed area's biodiversity resources.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 1,000.00 from the following address :

Development Support Sevices Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816-4061 / 893-9598
Email Address : bc_admin.ph@undp.org

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting **June 10, 2002 to June 14, 2002 only**. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates and other schedules for this activity.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

This Invitation to Bid shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until June 14, 2002.

PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Consulting Services for the Satellite Imagery and GIS Establishment of the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP) (PHI/99/G31 and PHI/99/014)

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the "Satellite Imagery and GIS Establishment", a sub-contract under the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP).

SIBP is an eight-year project implemented by the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with funding assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project aims to protect a representative sample of the biodiversity of the Philippine archipelago by establishing the Samar Island National Park (SINP), covering an area of 347,000 hectares with surrounding buffer of 123,000 hectares.

In order to acquire up-to-date spatial information and develop capacity towards their use in support of the establishment and management of the proposed SINP, the Project shall engage the services of a consulting firm to acquire recent satellite imagery of Samar Island's land cover to establish its Geographical Information System.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 1,000.00 from the following address :

Development Support Sevices Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816-4061 / 893-9598
Email Address : bc_admin.ph@undp.org

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting **June 10, 2002 to June 14, 2002 only**. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates and other schedules.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

This Invitation to Bid shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until June 14, 2002.

PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contracting of Consulting Services for Farming Systems Review of the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (PHI/99/G31 and PHI/99/014)

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the "Farming Systems Review", a sub-contract under the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP).

SIBP is an eight-year project implemented by the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with funding assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project aims to protect a representative sample of the biodiversity of the Philippine archipelago by establishing the Samar Island National Park (SINP), covering an area of 347,000 hectares with surrounding buffer of 123,000 hectares. Parallel to biodiversity conservation, the Project is committed to the promotion and adoption of sustainable farming systems by forest dwellers, resulting to increase income, raise standard of living and eventually promote biodiversity conservation.

The project therefore requires the services of a consulting firm to conduct the Farming Systems Review aimed to determine existing farming practices, identify problems, constraints and opportunities and formulate strategies to address the problems.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 1,000.00 from the following address :

Development Support Sevices Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816-4061 / 893-9598
Email Address : bc_admin.ph@undp.org

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting **June 10, 2002 to June 14, 2002 only**. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates and other schedules.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

This Invitation to Bid shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until June 14, 2002.

PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Consulting Services for the Survey and Registration of Protected Areas Occupants (SRPAO) of the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP) (PHI/99/G31 and PHI/99/014)

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the "Survey and Registration of Protected Areas Occupants (SRPAO)", a sub-contract under the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP).

SIBP is an eight-year project implemented by the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with funding assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project aims to protect a representative sample of the biodiversity of the Philippine archipelago by establishing the Samar Island National Park (SINP), covering an area of 347,000 hectares with surrounding buffer of 123,000 hectares. One of the preliminary activities to be undertaken is the conduct of survey and registration of the forest occupants which is the basis for establishing management zones and buffer zones and for the preparation of management programs, including the identification of alternative livelihood opportunities.

The project therefore requires the services of a consulting firm to conduct the Survey and Registration of Protected Areas Occupants within the SINP aimed at gathering information on occupancy within the proposed SINP which is a necessary input to protected area management planning and implementation.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 1,000.00 from the following address :

Development Support Sevices Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816-4061 / 893-9598
Email Address : bc_admin.ph@undp.org

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting **June 10, 2002 to June 14, 2002 only**. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates and other schedules.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

This Invitation to Bid shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until June 14, 2002.

Eastmont Advertising marks 8th year

EASTMONT Advertising Inc., a full-service advertising agency, proudly marks its 8th year in the industry this June 8. Mabbi Vasallo-Ferreria, president and GM, recalls how the company has weathered all the tests that have stood in all the past years which stemmed from the different complexities of the economy that significantly affected the ad spending of clients.

"As we know, ad spending is like a barometer of the economic situation. Unfortunately, we have had clients whose foresight is admirable enough to know that they can gain brand equity after the storm is over. Besides, life goes on and always commodities and services are a sure thing with the consumers," she adds.

Ferreria believes that last year's theme in the advertising congress is just what catapults sales via advertising efforts—and that is speaking the language of the target market.

"We at EAI would always treat clients' business as our own and it's such a thrill for us when we get the report that our ad efforts are so effective." She shares the common sentiment of most advertising practitioners about clients still apprehensive to "get out of the box", so to speak, and try different approaches in order to promote their product.

"I believe that Filipino ads can be just as competitive and comparable to that of foreign ads without hurting the sensibilities of our culture, yet still be able to relate to the local consumers' language," she says.

Ferreria is also pleased to announce the appointment of Cristina Pentinio, media manager, Jake Gonzales, account supervisor, Aida Serna, executive assistant-administration, and Ringo Mendoza, senior copywriter as new EAI business partners.

"These associates of mine, I believe, will all the more help steer Eastmont to greater heights as they continue to demonstrate efficiency and loyalty to both clientele and management." Likewise, Ferreria is also grateful to all Eastmont clients, past and present, who have given her team full trust and confidence and support as business partners.

"It has been an interesting eight years," she says, "but we are really geared up climb and conquer more mountains ahead."

Int'l fashion school open house

THE PHILIPPINE International School of Fashion (PISF) will hold an Open House on June 8 in preparation for the coming school semester. This was announced by PISF director general Andree Belanger. In this annual event, PISF will present its curriculum for the coming semester, introduce the latest approach in fashion design using draping techniques, provide lectures on new fashion trends and styles, and conduct a demo on the PAD program focusing on the modern techniques in pattern design. Highlight is an exhibit of the works of the students. PISF is the first international fashion school in the Philippines. This was made possible through a Twinning Agreement between LaSalle College International of Canada and St. Scholastica's College of Manila in line with both schools' missions.

St. Scho 1977 homecoming

ST. SCHOLASTICA'S Marikina High School Batch 1977 shall hold its homecoming on June 8 at the Cats Disco, New World Hotel, starting 6 p.m. All 1977 graduates, including those who at one time had enrolled with the batch, and teachers, may call lawyer Marie Jo Suarez at 759-2761, 0917-8377953, Gay Livelo at 934-2376, Arlene Eusebio at 641-6918, or Annie Mateo at 642-7767.

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF MARIKINA
Office of the City Treasurer

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT REAL PROPERTY

By virtue of the provision of Section 260 of Local Government Code (RA 7160) the undersigned will sell at public auction on July 12, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the main entrance of the City Hall, Marikina City the real property herein below specified which is hereby certified to be delinquent in the payment of real property taxes, penalties and costs due thereon as of the date of sale.

PATALASTAS TUNGKOL SA PAGSUSUBASTA SA ARI-ARIANG DI NATITINAG NA MOROSO SA BUWIS

Alinsunod sa itinatadhana ng "Section 260 Local Government Tax Code (RA 7160) ang nakalagda sa ibaba ay magsusubasta sa publico sa Hulyo 12, 2002 sa ganap na ika-10 ng umaga sa bungad ng City Hall, ng Marikina ng mga ari-ariang binabanggit sa ibaba na napatunayan na hindi bayad upang mabayaran ang morosong buwis, multa at halaga ng pagsusubasta.

DECLARED OWNER and ADDRESS	TAX DEC. No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	KIND	LOT No.	BLK. No.	AREA	TCT No.	ASSESSED VALUE		TAX DUE	INTEREST	YEARS DELINQUENT	TOTAL TAX DUE	COST OF PUBLICATION	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE
								LAND	IMP.						
1. EUSEBIO, MARILOU ETAL 126 15th Avenue, Cubao Quezon City	D-011-02757 D-011-02758	Provident Village Tanong	Com. Lot Com. Hse.	40	9	375	285661	168,750.00	1,071,360.00	16,875.88 215,129.12	5,821.88 75,530.88	1998-2001 1994-2001	122,696.88 1,290,660.00	2,786.70	25,483.58 290,660.00
2. MENDOZA, RUFO 123 Pasadena, Pasay City	D-012-09720	Loyola Grand Villas, Conc. 1	Res. Lot	14	9	650	26342	169,000.00		75,790.00	26,122.20	1988-2001	101,912.20	2,786.70	104,698.90
3. ROSMIL REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	D-001-00176	Loyola Grand Villas, Barangka	Res. Lot	3-A	3-A	1,051	206679	273,260.00		122,547.20	42,237.76	1988-2001	164,784.96	2,786.70	167,571.66

I hereby certify that pursuant to Section 260 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the foregoing statement of delinquencies is a correct transcript of the records of this office as of April 30, 2002.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

RICARDO L. CASTRO
City Treasurer

Pinatutunayan ko na alinsunod sa itinatadhana ng Sekyong 260 ng Republic Act No. 7160, kilala sa tawag ng "Local Government Code of 1991" ang lahat ng nasasaad na pagkakautang sa buwis ay tama batay sa Talaan ng Tanggapan ito hanggang Abril 30, 2002.

PINATUTUNAYANG TAMA:

RICARDO L. CASTRO
City Treasurer

(PDI – June 7 & 15, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

'She is the same Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap who was indicted by the Department of Justice for documents falsification of companies owned by their mother, Mrs. Erlinda K. Ilusorio.'

SYLVIA ILUSORIO-YAP

This will serve as a notice to the public that on 9 May 2002, Sylvia Ilusorio-Yap stole/robbed the Safety Deposit Box of her mother, Mrs. Erlinda K. Ilusorio, in the Bank of Philippine Islands, Main Office, Ayala Avenue. The following items were stolen/robbed:

A. Jewelries worth approximately Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000.00)
B. Original Owner's Duplicate Copy of TCT No. 297155, covering a parcel land located in Antipolo City adjacent to Dulong Langit, registered in the name of Lakeridge Development Corp.
C. Original Owner's Duplicate Copy of CCT No. 15487, covering a condominium unit in Colonnade Residences, Makati City, registered in the name of Shereen K. Ilusorio:
D. Original Owner's Duplicate Copy of CCT No. 21578, covering Penthouse Unit-C Pacific Plaza Condominium, registered in the name of Lakeridge Development Corp.
E. Original Stock Certificates of Liberty Flour Mills Inc., under the name of the EKI Tourist Development Corp. representing more or less 761,468 shares of stock. (covered by Stock Certificate Nos. 9285, 8847, 8846 13645, 10782, 12786, 11398, 102825, 12128, and 9738)
F. Original Certificates of Membership of EKI Tourist Development Corp. in Manila Golf and Country Club Inc. (representing 100 units)

Accordingly, any and all transactions with regard to the above-mentioned jewelries, stock certificates and certificates of titles are NULL and VOID.

Similarly, any and all representations made or to be made by Ms. Ilusorio-Yap for any entity of the Ilusorio Group of Companies are unauthorized and illegal. These include but are not limited to: Fidelity Farms Inc., Great Asia Enterprises Inc., EKI Tourist Development Corp., Lakeridge Development Corp., Eurco Development Corp., Baguio Country Club, Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp., PHILCOMSAT, Ramar Real Estate Management Corp., Consolidated Estate Development Corp., Pacific Trading Corp., and Potenciano Ilusorio, the estate of Potenciano Ilusorio.

All parties are hereby forewarned and should report all transactions to:

Erlinda K. Ilusorio
Unit 38, Colonnade Residences
132 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Fax: 810-3158

(PDI – June 7, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Science Education Institute

Republic of the Philippines
SCIENCE EDUCATION INSTITUTE
Department of Science and Technology
3/F PTRI Bldg., Gen. Santos Avenue,
Bicutan, Tagig, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. 837-0057, 837-2071 (DL) local 2386

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Science Education Insitute, Department of Science and Technology (SEI-DOST) through its Pre-qualifications, Bids and Awards Committee invites interested parties to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for:

1 unit MOBILE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CLASSROOM (MITC)

Related bidding activities are as follows:

1. Issuance of pre-qualification forms - 11 June 2002
2. Submission of pre-qualification Requirements - 17 June 2002
3. Issuance of Notice to Pre-qualified Suppliers - 18 June 2002

The bidding documents may be obtained from Ms. Edel Bustamante at Room 312, 3/F PTRI Bldg., Gen. Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Tagig, Metro Manila during office hours upon payment of FIVE HUNDRED (P500.00) which is non-refundable.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on 19 June 2002, 10:00 a.m. at the SEI Conference Room, 3/F PTRI Bldg., Gen. Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Tagig, Metro Manila.

Sealed bid proposals shall be received until 10:00 a.m. of **June 26, 2002** at the SEI Conference Room, 3/F PTRI Bldg., Gen. Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Tagig, Metro Manila by the SEI PBAC after which the bid proposals shall be publicly opened in the presence of attending bidders. In case of failed bidding due to insufficient participating/responsive bidders, a re-bidding shall automatically be re-scheduled fifteen (15) calendar days after the announcement of a failure of bid at the same time and venue as the first bidding.

SEI-DOST reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bids as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the government.

SEI-DOST neither assumes any obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ESTER B. OGENA**
Director, SEI

(PDI - June 7, 8 & 9 2002)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: 555-0293; 840-1440

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID (RE-BID)

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) invites accredited Suppliers/Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following requirements:

COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) CYLINDERS
(Operating Pressure: 3672 psi / 255 bar - minimum at 15°C)
Project No. : ER200205
Bid Deadline : July 4, 2002

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC - Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before **June 21, 2002**. Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
Senior Vice President
Legal, Administration and Estate
Management Services

(PDI – June 6 & 7, 2002)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Happy hunter?

Q. Why is the pirate flag featuring a skull and crossbones called the 'Jolly Roger'?

A. The reason is not clearly known. The pirates of the 17th and 18th centuries called their flag 'Old Roger,' an early nickname for the Devil, and in thieves' slang vagabonds and rogues were called 'rogers.' But whence the ironic 'jolly?' Two explanations derive the epithet from French: for his tailored red coat, the pirate Bartholomew Roberts was nicknamed 'Le Joli Rogue'; in English this came to mean the flag rather than the man. Equally plausible is that Jolly Roger is a corruption of *Jolie Rougére*, a red pennant flown by French buccaneers to show no mercy would be given.

For the Record. Although the design most associated with the Jolly Roger, the skull and crossbones, has often been hoisted in romantic legend and literature, there is curiously little evidence of its use by pirates. Certainly it is an age-old symbol of death, and one which has been displayed on flags in more recent times. During World War II, submarines returning to base would sometimes fly the skull and crossbones to indicate a 'kill'; it was also flown occasionally during the 1982 Falklands War, and on some tanks during the 1991 Gulf War.

Past Forward. This day in 1940: Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon proclaimed Tagalog as one of the official languages of the Philippines along with English and Spanish, effective July 4, 1946.

WORD WATCH

Monoglot (muh nuh glot): a person knowing only one language.

PDI – June 7, 2002

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Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas
Department of Foreign Affairs

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION
PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Foreign Affairs Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (DFA-PBAC) invites all interested bidders to submit their bids for the Security Services Contract for the security requirements of the DFA's ten (10) Regional Consular Offices (RCOs).

The detailed Terms of Reference, Draft Contract and Bid Requirements for the RCO Security Services may be obtained from the PBAC Secretariat, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Floor, DFA Building, 2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **31 May** to **14 June 2002** after payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP5,000.00 to the Cashier of the Department.

Pre-qualification documents must be submitted in duplicate to the PBAC Secretariat on or before **21 June 2002**. For purposes of clarifying certain issues, Pre-Bid Meetings may be held upon determination by PBAC.

Sealed bids must be submitted to the PBAC Secretariat not later than 12:00 p.m. of **5 July 2002** and thereafter shall be publicly opened at 3:00 p.m. of the same day.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the Government. The Department assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder/s for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Department also reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refuse to accept the Contract.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN**
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs
and PBAC Chairperson

(PDI–May 31 & June 7, 2002)

UST music seminar

THE UST Consevratory of Music, through the Sorsogon Arts Council Inc., recently held a summer music camp and music festival for music educators, students and out-of-school youths in Sorsogon City last May 13 to 22.

The summer music camp and music festival is the annual outreach commitment program of the University of Sto. Tomas Conservatory of Music. Now on its 15th year, the camp festival brings the core faculty of the different music disciplines as well as the various ensemble groups.

Participated in by some 500 music mentors, students, choir groups and out-of-school youths from the province of Sorsogon, the group conducts lectures, trainings, and concerts to enhance the musical knowledge and raise the level of artistic awareness of the local people on Philippine classical and indigenous music.

Caring sponsors for the meaningful event include Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies, Pagcor, PLDT, Presidential Management Staff, and Landbank. The event was also co-sponsored by Rep. Francis Escudero.

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☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
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SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
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☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

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*For more information, please call your funeral director

Modesta Guinto de Guzman

Born November 4, 1919

Our beloved "INANG", peacefully joined her Creator on June 5, 2002 at the age of 83.

Her late husband **Teodoro Busuego de Guzman**; together with children and in-laws **Florencio & Justina, Fidela (†), Victoria & Robledo, Florencia & Domingo, Alvaro & Patricia, Dr. Marcelino & Rosalinda, Dr. Daniel & Ursula, Dra. Benita & Engr. Manuel**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Malapit, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 9, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.

Compliments of Funeraria Tuason

CANDIDO M. LLOREN

August 29, 1940 - June 6, 2002

His wife **Lynn**; son **Kitt**; mother **Gorling**; brothers and sisters **El, Boy (†), Gils, Linda, Mila, Dolly (†)** and **Darmie**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Edsa, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on June 11, 2002, at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Schedule time of interment to be announced later.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE	: **897-8808 loc. 514, 516 899-4425; 897-2535 897-8425 (Telefax)**
CUBAO	: **912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)**
MAKATI	: **892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370**
KALAW	: **528-0213, 527-3342**
MEGAMALL	: **635-0219, 635-0220**

Our Dearly Beloved

Rosita Tabia Añonuevo

Born on September 22, 1919

Peacefully joined her Creator on June 5, 2002 at the age of 82 in Santa Cruz, Laguna.

Her loving children **Edwin** and **Cecille**, **Melith** and **Edwin**, **Portia** and **Joey**, **Ross**, **Yoyie** and **Jimmy**, **Marivic**, **Tom** and **Edith**, **Domy** and **Cora**, **Lito** and **Carol**, **August** and **Mai**; brothers and sisters **Paring**, **Quito** and **Norie**, **Cely** and **Mario**, **Tita** and **Josie**; grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 1733 Lopez Jaena Street, Santa Cruz, Laguna.

Interment will be announced later.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life;
he who believes in Me shall live; and
whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

Dr. Felipe M. Carreón

Former Dean, UST Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical Technology & Biochemistry

Died in the peace of our Lord on June 5, 2002 at the age of 93.

His bereaved wife **Felicisima**; children **Corazon**, **Antonio**, **Eduardo**, **Benjamin**, and **Virginia**; son-in-law **Arthur Cuadrante**; daughters-in-law **Margie**, **Nanette** & **Peaches**; grandchildren **Albert** & **Joy**, **Gina**, **Chelet**, **Francis** & **Lisa**, **Mike** & **Cathy**, **Maricar**, **Pep**, **Miguel**, **Nacho**, **Tina**, **Chikoy**; great grandchildren **Julia** & **Marco**; sister **Juanita**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8699; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan; Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu; Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City; Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City; Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City; Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3606; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila; Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City; Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City; Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas; Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
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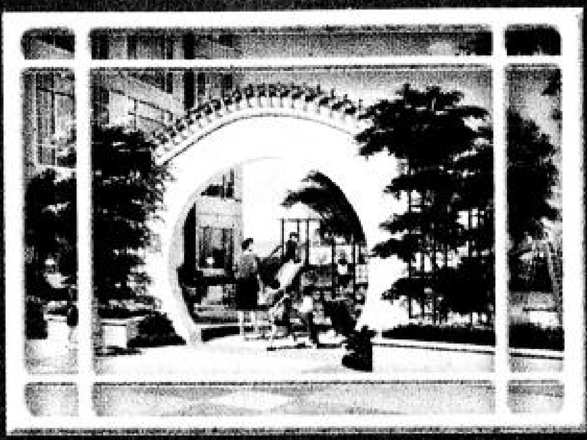

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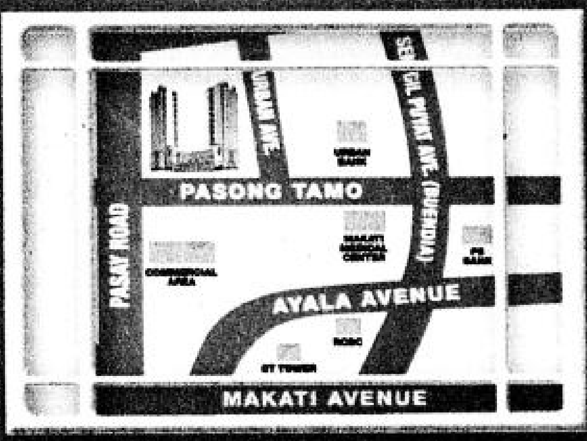
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TO PROMOTE RP CUISINE ABROAD

Kitchen royalties cooking up Pinoy menu

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COUNTRY'S kitchen royalty led by Glenda Barretto of Via Mare have agreed to join hands in cooking up a menu of home-grown dishes that would be promoted aggressively by the government to make Filipino food as distinct and popular as Thai or Vietnamese cuisine in Europe and the United States.

In an interview during the Philippine Food Festival at the upscale Federal Department Store in Taipei, Barretto said her group of culinary experts has opted to use the same recipe for success employed by Thailand to create a Thai food menu.

"We felt that Thailand's deliberate strategy to create and promote a Thai food menu for international consumers during the 1980s was the best way to ensure a successful promotion of Philippine food worldwide," Barretto said.

The Thai government not only went to great lengths picking out the best and most popular Thai dishes but it also ensured that Thai restaurants would have the proper theme and standard pricing.

Thai food has become very popular overseas with at least 5,000 Thai restaurants offshore mainly in the United States, about 2,000 (40 percent); Europe, 700 (14 percent); Australia, 500 (10 percent); and Japan, 300 (6 percent).

Thai food has been accepted due to its nutritional value, natural herbs and spices, low fat content as well as hot and spicy taste.

Not unlike the process of preparing a special dish, Barretto said the project needed preparation and close attention to details in choosing a core set of dishes—from appetizers to the main courses to desserts—that would be promoted aggressively by the government overseas.

"We're holding taste testing and brainstorming sessions just to figure out what kind of food will appeal to a broad foreign market and set a standard in their preparation anywhere in the world," Barretto said.

Barretto said the Asia Society, through its trustee Doris Magsaysay Ho, has agreed to finance the research and development of several Filipino dishes. Asia Society has been supportive of efforts to develop a market for Philippine products such as fashion apparel.

It has brought Filipino designers and local fabrics like *jusi* and *piña* in exhibits abroad..

Barretto expects to come up with the choice dishes within the next two months and it is aiming to start an international marketing blitz to promote Filipino food by next year.

She was optimistic that Filipino food will appeal to a wider market base than Thai or Vietnamese food. "Most Filipino food has European roots unlike other Asian foods which are either Chinese or Malay in origin. Our food is not too exotic nor hot and spicy which should make it easier for us to attract a bigger market, particularly in Europe and the US," Barretto said.

Barretto also noted that the development of a Filipino food category worldwide could boost Philippine exports of food products such as ready-to-eat foods, condiments, and food ingredients as well as shore up demand for Filipino-themed restaurants and franchises worldwide.

This in turn could generate export earnings, create business opportunities for businessmen, as well as create employment.

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Mandatory e-filing and e-payment for large taxpayers

TAX-FILES

By Mellany D. Morales
SGV & Co.

IT WAS only last year when e-filing and e-payment was opened to everyone who cared to get wired. However, recent amendments brought about by Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 2-2002, dated March 5, 2002 changed all that.

The Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS) refers to the processing and transmission of tax return information made over the Internet through the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) website. The tax liability may also be paid through Internet banking facilities of authorized agent banks that are accredited to collect internal revenue taxes.

The BIR launched the program to comply with the E-commerce Act (Republic Act No. 8792), which mandated all government offices to do the following in the form of electronic data messages or electronic documents.

These are: accept the filing or retention of documents; issue licenses or approvals; and transact government business or perform government functions. Government offices must do all these within two years from the effectivity of the E-Commerce Act.

Initially, the EFPS was introduced and made available to all taxpayers as an alternative to the manual filing of tax returns and payment of taxes. With e-filing and e-payment available, taxpayers are spared from the ordeal of having to flock to the BIR and wait long queues to file tax returns and pay taxes.

Now, in a bid to fast-track compliance with the E-commerce Act and provide a more efficient manner of electronically filing returns and paying tax liabilities through the Internet, the coverage of the EFPS has been amended.

The BIR has made it mandatory for large taxpayers to use the EFPS and limited the coverage of voluntary compliance to non-large taxpayers to be identified by the BIR.

The decision to focus initially on large taxpayers was made in accordance with the authority of the Finance Secretary to promulgate rules and regulations prescribing the manner of filing of tax returns and payments of taxes of large taxpayers under Section 245 (j) of the Tax Code of 1997.

Moreover, the new method of EFPS implementation was expected to help ease up the pressure on the BIR's presently limited systems capability.

Taxpayers, especially the large ones, should pay attention to these recent amendments to the coverage of the EFPS. RR 2-2002 provides rules as to: a) who should; b) who may; and c) who may not e-file and e-pay. It likewise provides stiffer penalties for non-compliance with its provisions.

Keep in mind that, as is always the case with tax laws, the avoidance of penalties is a reward in itself.

Mandatory e-filing and e-payment

Beginning 2001, large taxpayers are mandated to e-file their final adjustment income tax returns. They must also e-pay the taxes due through the EFPS on or before the 15th day of the fourth month following the close of the taxable year.

This mandatory e-filing and e-payment shall continue for all fiscal years as well as the succeeding calendar years.

Nonetheless, e-payment is optional for tax returns that will be filed until June 30, 2002. Thus, for a large taxpayer who does not choose to pay electronically for these returns, payment should be made manually.

Beginning July 1, 2002, however, large taxpayers are mandated to e-file all tax returns that can be filed electronically and e-pay taxes due through the EFPS.

Presently, only the following tax returns produced by the EFPS can be filed electronically:

a) 1601C - Monthly Remittance Return of Income Tax Withheld on Compensation;

b) 1601E - Monthly Remittance Return of Creditable Income Taxes Withheld (Expanded);

c) 1602 - Remittance Return of Final Taxes Withheld;

d) 1603 - Remittance Return of Final Income Taxes Withheld on Fringe Benefits Paid to Employees other than Rank and File;

e) 1700 - Annual Income Tax Return;

f) 1702 - Annual Income Tax Return for Corporations and Partnerships;

g) 1702Q - Quarterly Income Tax Return for Corporations and Partnerships;

h) 2200A - Excise Tax Return for Alcohol Products;

i) 2200P - Excise Tax Return for Petroleum Products;

j) 2200T - Excise Tax Return for Tobacco Products;

k) 2550M - Monthly Value-Added Tax Declaration;

l) 2550Q - Quarterly Value-Added Tax Return; and

m) 2551 - Percentage Tax Return.

Optional e-filing and e-payment

Beginning July 1, 2002, e-filing and e-payment shall be voluntary for 200 non-large taxpayers identified by the BIR. These non-large taxpayers may e-file not only their final adjustment income tax returns but also all of the tax returns that can be filed electronically.

E-filing and e-payment are not yet available for everyone. Non-large taxpayers who are not among the 200 identified by the BIR may not use the EFPS, at least until the appropriate regulations for this group are issued.

There is an exception to this rule. Officials and employees of the BIR may e-file their returns and e-pay their taxes due through the EFPS upon the discretion of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Following the issuance of RR 2-2002, taxpayers who have previously enrolled in the EFPS, have been delisted. As such, these taxpayers, if qualified, would have to reenroll.

Large taxpayers and identified taxpayers that would like to use the EFPS should enroll according to the provisions of applicable regulations, circulars and orders, particularly Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 24-01 dated May 8, 2002.

As of this writing, the BIR has not yet issued any new circular to implement the changes in the EFPS.

In the meantime, large taxpayers and identified taxpayers that would like to use the EFPS should take note of the following changes in the procedure for enrollment.

The officers required by law to file returns shall enroll juridical entities or artificial persons. These officers are identified in RR 2-2002.

For domestic corporations, enrollment should be made by the president, the vice president or other principal officers; for partnership, the managing partner; for joint ventures, the managing head; and for resident foreign corporations, the country manager.

A corporate taxpayer only has to submit secretary's certificate identifying the officers.

Penalties

Large taxpayers face stiffer penalties if they fail to e-file their returns and e-pay their taxes. Failure to comply with the provisions of RR 2-2002 shall be penalized under Section 275 of the Tax Code of 1997.

Thus, a violation carries with it the penalty of imprisonment of not more than six months or a fine of not more than P1,000, or both.

Moreover, only the first and second offenses may be compromised. For the third and subsequent offenses, no compromise shall be entertained or allowed.

Large taxpayers and identified taxpayers that would like to use the EFPS should take note of the deadlines in e-filing their returns and e-paying their taxes.

The recent amendment to the EFPS is first in a series of changes to be implemented by the BIR to completely computerize taxpayers' transactions.

For sure, there will be subsequent regulations making e-filing and e-payment mandatory for other taxpayers. Eventually, e-filing and e-payment will become mandatory for all.

Keep in mind that the BIR is serious in achieving paperless filing of returns and payment of taxes.

For taxpayers who have not yet invested in the required hardware and software to use the EFPS (i.e. a computer with a modem, an Internet service provider, a browser and an e-mail account), now is a good time to start.

NY advertising fest winners

THE New York Advertising Festivals announced the winners of its 2002 International Print/Poster and Radio Advertising competitions.

Grand Award trophies for "Best of Show" were awarded to agencies located in five continents: DDB Dallas, USA, for a magazine campaign produced for Mellhenny Tabasco Sauce, Saatchi & Saatchi Guangzhou, China, for a poster created for Victorinox Army Knife, SSC&B Mumbai, India, for Copywriting produced for Strand Book Stall, and Taxi, Toronto, Canada for a magazine public service ad created for The Covenant House.

TBWA-Santiango, Mangada and Puno bagged a Silver World Medal for the Philippines for its hard-hitting "Nurse" radio commercial created for Teodora. Another Philippine ad (shown on this page) landed as finalist in entertainment category—an ad created by DDB Philippines for Smart Money and Robinsons Cinemaworld tie-up.

"NURSE" radio commercial

Gold, Silver and Bronze World Medals were awarded in a variety of competition categories with the worldwide network of FCB leading with five gold medals, followed by J. Walter Thompson with four and BBDO, DDB and Young & Rubicam with three.

Other multiple winning networks were Leo Burnett. McCann-Erickson, Saatchi & Saatchi and TBWA with two Gold medals each. Of the individual shops, multiple Gold winners were BDDP, Buologne winning three WorldMedals and Bozell, New York and Forsman & Bodenfors, Gothenburg, winning two WorldMedals each.

The Print/Poster winners were selected from entries across the globe. Preliminary judging sessions were conducted in 19 major advertising centers in 14 countries and the Grand Award winners were chosen at a final judging session at BBDO New York headquarters hosted by Phil Dusenberry, chair of The New York Festivals international board of judges.

The New York Festivals is saluting its 2002 Print/Poster winners in a preprinted advertising insert in the June issue of AdageGlobal, the bible of advertising worldwide, in the festival's worldwide website (www.nyfests.com) and in the forthcoming New York Festivals Annual of Advertising Eleven, distributed by Harper Collins International.

Previous Philippine ads which have appeared on the festivals book called The World's Best Work were works done by Ogilvy & Mather, Dentsu, Young & Rubicam-Alcantara, McCann-Erickson, DDB Philippines, Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi, J.Walter Thompson, Jimenez D'Arcy and Lowe Worldwide.

Founded in 1957, The New York Festivals ranks among the most heavily participated advertising competitions worldwide, encompassing annual media competitions in radio and television programming, film and video, radio, TV, print, outdoor and design advertising, interactive new media, healthcare communications, marketing effectiveness and financial services communications.

It is also holding the Midas Advertising Awards, a financial and insurance products and services awards competitions for the first time in the Philippines today, June 7, hosted by the Creative Guild of the Philippines. *Roger Pe*

Video game industry . . .

From page C3

anti-social niche market within the entertainment industry."

Talent behind the talent

The video game industry gathered in Los Angeles last month for the Electronic Entertainment Expo, which drew 62,000 for five days of blaring music, flashing lights and scantily clad models designed to create buzz for the year's upcoming games.

Despite the glow of borrowed celebrity for the promotions, the real cult heroes remained the game programmers.

While an audience cheered enthusiastically at a Microsoft Corp. event when a DJ from the rock band Linkin Park was introduced, their din grew still louder as the company introduced its T-shirt-clad legion of game developers.

Even so, the video game industry has itself gone a bit Hollywood, smarter and more studio-like in the way they manage brand-name talent, observers said. In one clear example, Activision has made its popular "Tony Hawk" line of skateboarding games focus as much on Hawk himself as the actual gameplay.

"It looks like they're starting to handle their big names as well as the movie industry does," John Davison, editorial director of the Ziff Davis Media Game Group, told Reuters. *Reuters*

Useful piece to show a reel of great ads

BOOK REVIEW

By David Guerrero
Contributor

"ONE of the best books on advertising I have ever read," says Jack Trout about Jim Aitchison's latest book. He of course follows in the footsteps of David Abbott in saying his first book "may be the best book on advertising I've read." And after him came Steve Henry who reviewed Jim's second book by saying "If you care about advertising you'll love this book."

What all this proves, apart from Jim Aitchison being an excellent writer with lots of friends in the business, is that advertising writers are not very good at book reviews. In fact, in the unlikely event, Jim wanted my quote on his covers of "Cutting Edge Advertising and Cutting Edge Commercials." I would probably end up describing them as two of the best books on advertising I have ever bought, lent out and then not got back.

His latest book then, comes highly recommended. It is basically a collection of case studies from around the region (which includes Australia and New Zealand). And judging from the variation in style, the cases have been provided by the agencies themselves. It is organized by category—from apparel to travel and tourism—much like an award show. This is very useful if you want to show a reel of great ads to some clients—and then answer the inevitable "yes, but did it work" questions with something like, "changes in perception improved by 32 percent." Or "the ads pulled in $0.5 billion in three months."

Flicking through the book you start to feel like a client conducting a new business pitch. A dire situation is set up. The brilliant solution is presented. Glowing results are breathtakingly announced. All that's missing is the coffee and the stale sandwiches.

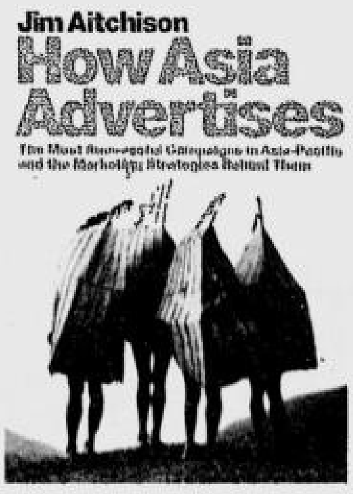
What this provides you with then is the ultimate insider's reference guide. If you are going up against another agency you can look up their best case studies and prepare accordingly. The difficulty of course is that most of the campaigns in here are both very good and very effective. So you'd better have some great work of your own.

So far so good. The difficulty, if there is one, is that you get the feeling the book hasn't quite defined creative and marketing success. Naturally some of the featured campaigns have achieved both distinctions. That is, they have been recognized in some major awards show and have a comprehensive third-party validated case study to go with them.

It's also nice, for instance, to read a quote by the marketing director of "No Frills Funerals." It's nice because there IS a marketing director of "No Frills Funerals." You can also catch up on some of the excellent writing skills that are put to work presenting these cases. There were the odd few where the writing of the case study seemed to be better than the copy in the ads.

Conversely, I thought the Sunday campaign from Hong Kong, the Fevicol work from India and the Black Cat commercial from Thailand could have been included. But obviously with the scale and volume of work involved, it's easy to overlook one or two.

There are two campaigns from the Philippines included in the book. They are the Absolute Water campaign by O&M and the Tide campaign by Leo Burnett. Both are excellent case studies. And clearly there are many more from this country that could go into a second edition of the book. Hey, we could even do one of our own. Any volunteers?



What would be ideal from my point of view would be to directly relate award winners to results. Taking up where Gunn left off. The ability of any agency to spin its effectiveness needs to be tempered by the necessity of the work to have won some major awards as well. And if someone comes up short trying to describe the effectiveness of the pet burial services campaign, then so much the better.

The best way to put such a presentation together for now would be to start with this excellent book and then select the campaigns that suit your criteria. It will need some effort and, eventually, some updating. For that we can probably look forward to "How Asia Advertises Part 2." And, no doubt, some more superlatives from the rest of the industry.

Proactive marketing: Formula to survive

From page C4

ministration in 1975; even on women who had been associate professor for 12 years in the marketing department of the UP College of Business Administration, from which she graduated cum laude at the top of her class; and even on women who have co-authored a book on the principles of marketing management and who have been sent by their company to the Harvard Business School for further studies.

Añonuevo's first forays into the world of business involved the rehabilitation of Agrix, a subsidiary of the National Development Corporation, and of the Herdis group of companies. In 1983, she joined Ayala Corp. and is now the vice president of Ayala Land and head of its sales and marketing services group. The Salcedo Place tower series is among the proud landmarks in her journey to where she is now.

It takes a special kind of toughness to make it in the business world the way Anonuevo has made it, the kind that roots deeply in the home.

"I am my father's daughter," Añonuevo says, referring to the late lawyer, Regino Eustaquio, a former Senate secretary.

Drawing strength from her childhood, and drawing even more strength from years of nurturing from her father, Añonuevo also had to overcome the loss of her husband 10 years ago and keep a home for their three children.

Winning in tough times? Añonuevo has shown three P's over—as a professor, as a professional marketer, and as a single parent—that it can be done, and done resoundingly well.

How about as president of PMA? Well, she's on her way to success in that "P" as well.

THE 5th 'P'

Product, price, place and promotions: Añonuevo calls them marketing's "most basic language." She insists, however, that "there is a fifth P, perhaps the most basic of all: People.

"Market" is generally defined as "people able and willing to buy your products and/or services. The way to win is not just to get your market but also to keep it. You do that by giving people what is important to them: outstanding value, impeccable service, and solid long-term relationships," Añonuevo explains "People patronize products and businesses that understand their expectations and work hard to exceed them. People give their invaluable loyalty to products and businesses that understand them—as people."

This is how Añonuevo spelled out her "people principle" for marketing in her inaugural address. For example, for product, she admonishes not to cut corners, not to cheat your customers with inferior products if you can come up with better ones.

For price, Añonuevo says: "Adjust your pricing according to the purchasing capability of your market. Offer affordable prices or price packages (discounts, installments, etc). Cotton, for example, is sold in P1 units in several areas in Metro Manila, and that butter is sold at P2 slices, and so with cooking oil. This is very good marketing because it enables the market to buy the products, because it is based on an intimate knowledge of where people are at: what they need, and what they can afford."

Patriotism and positive thinking

Why do we lag behind our Asian neighbors, Anonuevo asks, almost fiercely. We already have in place all that we need for a genuine economic boom, she points out. Filipinos are richly creative and innovative. Many Pinoys have achieved international recognition in various fields. Yet our nation is still mired in instability and poverty. Why do we pull each other down?

These are the questions and sentiments of a natural marketer who, by professional necessity and by personal inclination, is a supreme optimist. Perhaps, in a very real sense, the tough times we are (still) in are of our own making?

One glad thing is that, even in these tough times, there is no dearth of success stories. This is largely what the 33rd NMC will be about: not just opportunities and formulas for winning, but also, and more importantly, real-life winners. Bayer Philippines, Abbott Laboratories, Citibank, Visa, Surf, Knorr, Viva TV, Microsoft Philippines, Subic Bay: these are but a few examples to be presented.

For inquiries call 8130466 or 8920979. (Edward G. Libunao)

Video game industry moves into starring role

LOS ANGELES—The characters never age, they work in multimedia without complaining and—the dream of every Hollywood mogul—the studios really do own them.

That's why Lara Croft and Mario the Plumber are stars who shine as brightly in the entertainment business as real-life actors like Tom Cruise and Julia Roberts.

Video games have grown to rival movies as a magnet for America's entertainment dollars. Game hardware and software sales reached about $9.4 billion in 2001. By comparison, Hollywood's box offices rang up $8.35 billion, not including DVD and video.

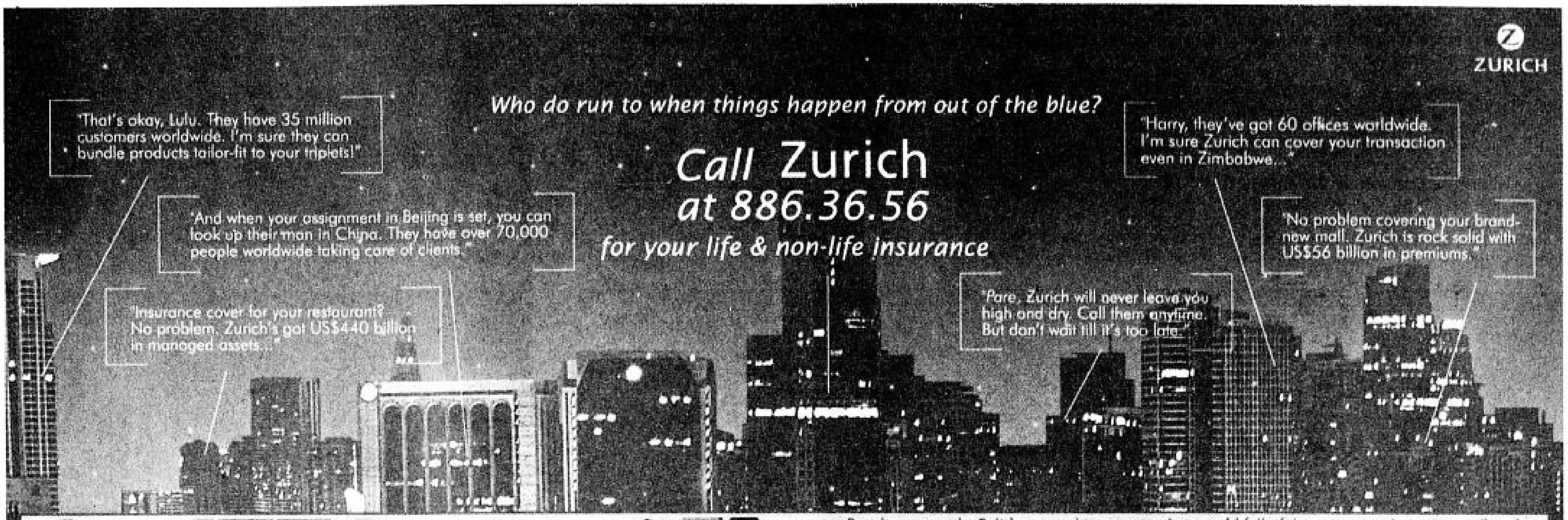
With its growing success, the game industry, once seen as a refuge for misfit programmers in black T-shirts, has a newfound red-carpet status. As a result, video producers are becoming collaborators with the mainstream moviemakers and franchise game characters like Lara Croft of the "Tomb Raider" series are getting starring movie roles. Croft has become a big enough star to merit the attention of her own agent—Hollywood talent powerhouse Creative Artists Agency.

But the video game business, which has so far bucked the consolidation trend that's put most studios under big corporate banners, is forced to walk a fine line—moving into the big time without selling out the rebellious, anti-establishment values so dear to its biggest fans.

"I don't know whether we're the ugly stepchild, or whether we aspire to be the same as the movie business," said Luc Vanhal, president and chief operating officer of Vivendi Universal Games North America, a unit of Vivendi's film unit, Universal.

Charles Bellfield, a vice president at the US arm of game player producer Sega Corp. said, "The cold reality at the end of the day is that we are still perceived as an

VIDEO/ C2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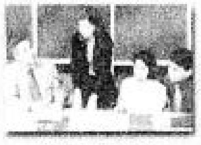
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Proactive marketing: Formula to survive

TOUGH times. With the Abu Sayyaf situation still unresolved and spreading its own brand of fear into urban centers, with coup rumors making rounds in the upper echelons of government and society, with political intrigues continuing to hound Malacañang, with growing social unrest, tough times is an understatement.

Tough times. This is one half of the theme for this year's National Marketing Conference (NMC), slated on July 3 and 4. But the other half is by far the more important one: Winning.

And so the full theme goes: "Winning in Tough Times: Stand Out or Lose Out." The conference is the 33rd to be organized by the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) since it was founded in January 1954.

But how to win? How to stand out? How not to lose out?

PMA's final answer, as enunciated by its 2002 president, is unequivocal: proactive marketing, the kind that acts, rather than reacts.

Tough P's

"These are times that call for quick thinking, great stores of strength, and the kind of fighting spirit that remains standing amid fallen buildings and crushed hopes. Let us rise and create order from turmoil. Let us be heroes. Let us act now."

These words were so tough you would think they came from former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. But these words in fact came from one tough lady who acknowledges Giuliani as her newest personal hero: Ma. Victoria E. Añonuevo, in her inaugural address as PMA president.

Añonuevo is the 40th president of the PMA. She has nearly two decades of marketing experiences and successes firmly tucked under her belt.

She recalls Roy, her late husband, patiently urging her, "*Sayang ka* (You are wasting your potential)." She finally relented in 1983, when she decided to leave the academe for the corporate world.

The corporate world has always been a bit tougher on women—even on those who were third overall and top among the female graduates in their class of Masters in Business Ad-

PROACTIVE/ C2

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The end of summer

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THIS year, the rains knew when to come, as far as I'm concerned. I'm not talking about them delivering us from the heat, but about them weaning us away from the little rewards of 2002 summer just before these could spoil us.

To an office-bound Metro Manilan, the summer just past meant stealing a weekend to Tagaytay or Batangas in the south, or Subic or Clark in the north.

That was good enough.

For some the long holidays allowed a Baguio or a Boracay—still the "in" destinations. I did Cebu. Shangri-La Mactan was as good as it got, couldn't have been better, in fact. I'll always be thankful for an evening's peace and quiet on its shore, atop that mini-hill where you fought off the blossoming of a memory that could outlive your friends long after they're gone from your life, where you jointly pondered and debated the landmines of your days or even lives, and roll-called, again jointly, the morons passing through your space.

The balcony of the Shangri-La room delivered the uninterrupted view of the sky, from sunrise to sundown, and you realized that was what still set your country apart from Bali. A friend was right in noting that Bali is, for the most part, the beauty of the land, while the Philippines gives you the beauty of all—land, sea and sky—even on a single isolated space.

One night gave some comic relief when the tourist-y entertainment of "ethnic" music, with all its banging and clanging, blasted into the balcony and produced not culture appreciation but sheer cacophony. We could only agree with a foreigner's wise observation—that it would be smart for our tourism officials to sell to tourists not a badly performed ethnic music, which produces an ultra-rural and rather inaccurate view of postmodern Philippines, but sell our highly evolved original Pilipino music, the modern songs of the '70s, which truly indicate how progressive and innovative Filipinos are when it comes to music.

But the rains didn't catch us in Cebu; the drizzle merely threatened to spoil our tennis. Their arrival was in perfect sync with our moods. They came just when we khew we were done with summer.

Subic interlude

Last Saturday, **Vic Agustin**, **Honey Ilusorio**, **Penny Zosa** and **Lou San Diego** and I were at the new VinCafé at Clearwater Country Club in Clark. Over a glass (okay, two) of newly discovered (for me, at least) white wine (Chilean), which surely set the stage for my conversion to white from red, we were regaled by Honey's stories that spanned eras, from her childhood at the Baguio Country Club to her business stint in the family's Manila Wine Merchants. A born raconteur, this Honey.

I thought of how the name doesn't quite describe this café. It's not a café in the cosmopolitan sense. It has no walls confining enough to nurse your angst; what it has, uniquely, are an open pastoral space marked with old, gracefully slanting trees and a sky as clear as your mind could be at the moment. Only the gurgling sound of the water streaming around the table accompanied your voices, or, if you strained your ear, the croaking of frogs. So Zen.

Spreading out above us were the mature yet seemingly dainty branches of the acacias, abundant enough to serve as canopy. Set against the gunmetal sky, they looked stark like an intricate brocade—the rich embroidered lace of a fine Saint Laurent. As I studied the lines and curlicues of nature's lace, Honey abruptly concluded her tale. "It's raining," she exclaimed. As we stood up, it began to pour. The rains came at evening's end, not before, not during. It gave due respect to summer's last night.

Batangas bash

Previous to this, we let friends **Annie Ringor**, **Leah Caringal** and **Toni Gregory** show us the weekend haunts a-budding in the south. Batangas seems to be where the action is, if you're talking of urbanites who want to

THE END/ p.D4

MAVIS Manotoc Fuentebella does beach volleyball at Kawayan Cove.

JOEY Puyat with Ana and Iñaki Ugarte reminiscing about Bamboo Beach.

The rains have come, but haven't put a dampener on the weekend lifestyle taking shape for today's urban Pinoy family

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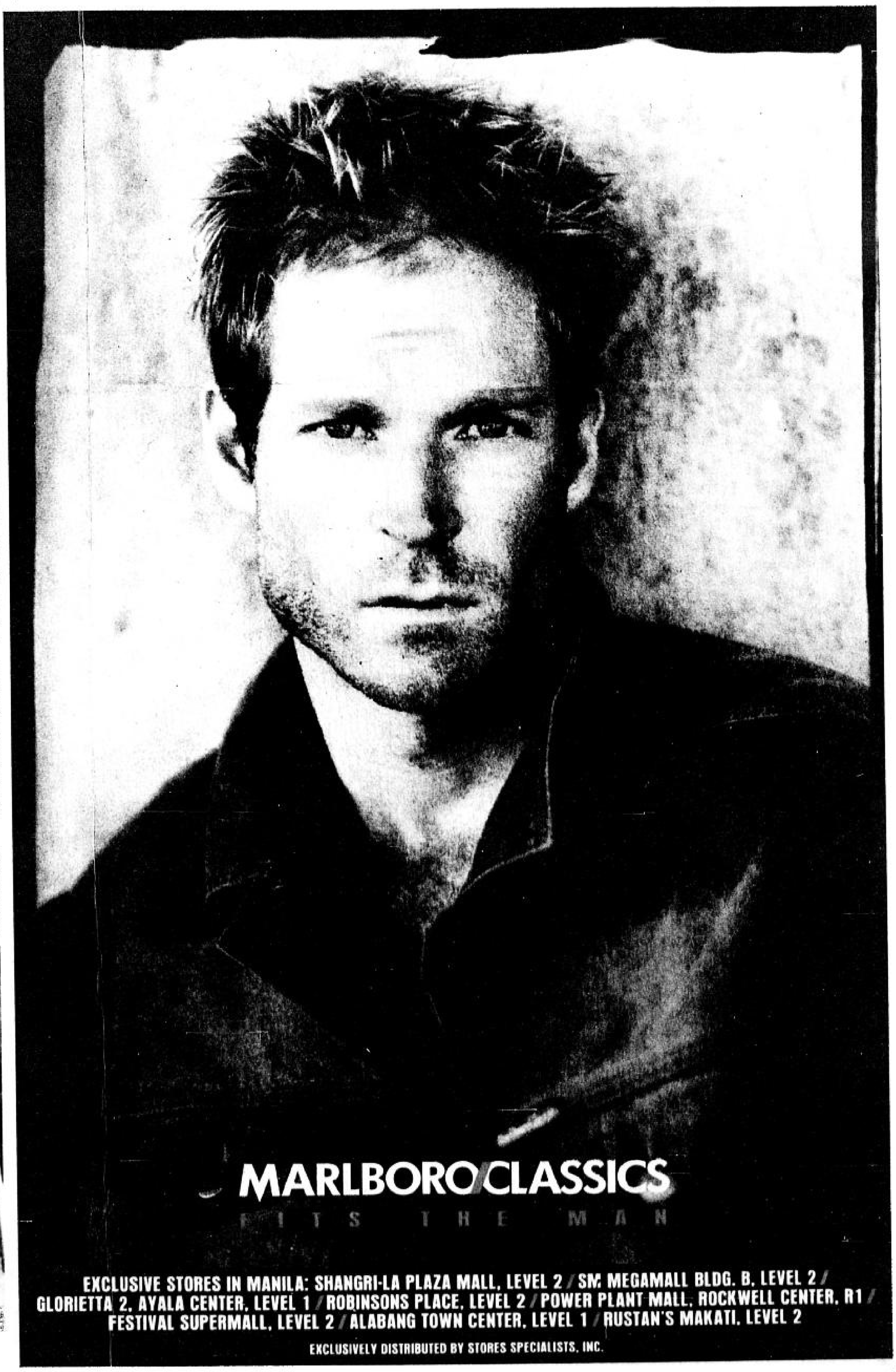

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Green 2000 Garden Center, the country's premier one-stop garden shop, will hold a seminar-workshop on the many uses of stones on June 15, 2-5 p.m., at the AEK Bldg, 40 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City. Admission is free.

At Green 2000 Garden Center, there are over 10 different kinds of stones, including the black stone, which is a popular material for key chains. There are also one-of-a-kind collectibles—jade, tiger, amber and coral, which can be used for jewelry. For aquarium enthusiasts, there are stones with intricate designs, which are best seen under water.

See and appreciate all these at the free seminar-workshop on the many uses of stones. Call 711-9636 or 712-0471.

FIESTA MASSES. The National Shrine of the Sacred Heart on Dao Street, Makati City will hold Fiesta Masses today at 12:15 p.m. with Bishop Socrates Villegas as main celebrant and at 6 p.m. with Msgr. Clem Ignacio as officiating priest. A grand procession will be held after the 6 p.m. mass.

On June 9 there will be an "Almusalang Bayan" in the morning followed by a mass baptism at 12 noon.

The national chapter of the Apostleship of Prayer will hold the Fiesta Mass at Malate Chruch today at 12 noon.

SEARCH. Young Star magazine and Lipton Ice Tea launch the Hip Tribe campaign in search of campus celebrities.

Nominees should be 18 to 24 years old, and at least 5'6" for male and 5'2" for female. They should be vibrant, witty, assertive and attractive. They should have above-average ability to speak and write in English and Filipino. Valid proof of enrollment is needed.

All nomination forms must be in on or before June 21. Send entries to RPA People & Parties, 1610 Medical Plaza Ortigas, San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The Young Star-Lipton Hip Tribe is presented by Adidas, Johnson & Johnson's Clean & Clear, John Robert Powers, Citibank Clear Card, Globe Telecom, Sun Resorts Boracay, MTV, E! Entertainment Philippines, and the Philippine Star.

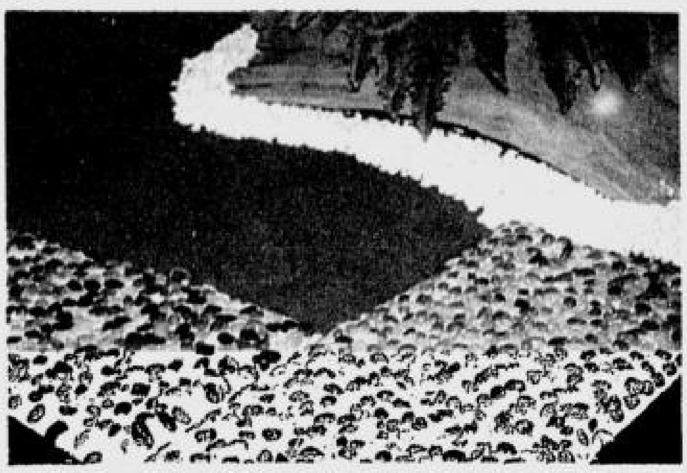
OPENING. Badminton aficionados and movie fans will be able to see the sporty side of show biz tomorrow as Richard Gomez, Marvin Agustin and Bojo Molina wield their rackets and play like pros in the JVC Open Badminton Championships 2002.

Organized by International Management Group, the tournament also features Mandy Ochoa, Mariz Ricketts, Ace Espinosa, Glenda Garcia, Jong Cuenco, Lovely Rivero, Ruby Rodriguez, Samantha Lopez, Jestoni Alarcon, Dennis Padilla and Marjorie Barretto.

APPLIANCE HOME FAIR. Avid Sales Corporation, a chain of retail concept stores in Metro Manila and Cebu, holds the Appliance Home Fair until June 30 at the 5/F of Isetann Department Store-Recto.

Shoppers may enjoy up to 60% discount on selected items and free premium items on purchases. Avid will also come up with affordable home theater packages. Call 522-5714 and 525-3634.

AVSurfer, the country's only AV-IT convergence store, stages the Digital Festival at Save A Lot, Pasong Tamo Extension until June 27. Zero interest deals, reduced rates and special discounts on selected items are in store for shoppers attending the festival. Call 525-3634 and 525-2215.



NATURAL river stones for healing

SALE. "Balik School is Cool" centerwide sale at Araneta Center gives up to 50 percent discounts on school items. The list includes uniforms, bags and shoes, study paraphernalia and other school-related materials. The sale runs until June 16. Participating shops at Ali Mall and Farmers Plaza such as Guess, Cinderella, Marithe Francois Girbaud, Gift Gate, Penshoppe, Oxygen, Urban Outlet, Bizaare, Converse, Avon Cosmetics and Apparels, Bench, Anonymous, Rustan's Superstore, SM Shoemart, and National Bookstore. Call 911-1423/1761.

MEDITATION CLASS. Amy P. Cavosora is holding "A Course in Miracles." The Level 1 meditation class will teach proper posture and breathing and concentration. Guided meditations and healing are also given by appointment. Classes are scheduled on June 16, 2:30-5:30 p.m., and June 29, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Call 925-2795 or (0917) 6089625.

SEMINAR. ProActive Center for Training holds a seminar/workshop on restaurant management on June 13-24, 1-5 p.m., at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, Quezon City. Call 0919-5500601 or e-mail pactserv@info.com.ph.

FURNITURE FAIR. The 9th National Telecommunication, Furniture and Furnishing Fair is set on June 14-July 7 at the Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Complex.

The fair is an opportunity for promoting products and establishing potential and regular buyers. Interested parties may contact Ariel Villanueva, Al-Al Babiera, Albert Castro, Celina Umali at the ground floor, Blue Mens Bldg., 707 Urduja St., Barangay, Village, Sucat Road. Paranaque City, 820-3862 or 826-8162.

KIDDIE FAIR. Edsa Shangri-La Manila presents "Circus, Circus," the 2nd annual kiddie fair on June 16, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

The fair features a one-stop-shop for children's party trends and a wide variety of exhibits on party themes and decorations, amusement and recreation, apparel, books and magazines, cakes, health and beauty, invitations, photography, as well as toys and novelties. Admission is free. Call 636-9068 to 9074.

WRITING CONTEST. The Robinsons Malls are conducting a kiddie poem writing contest carrying the themes "My Dad, the Best Father in the World" and "Thank You, Dad," until June 10. This contest is open to students belonging to grades 4-7. Entry forms are now available at any Robinsons Malls (Galleria, Manila, Imus, Novaliches, Metro East, Los Banos, Starmills Pampanga) promo booths and information counters. Deadline of submission of entries is on or before June 12. A total of 35 entries will be chosen during the judging on June 14 at Robinsons Galleria. The awarding of the top 3 winning entries will be held on June 16, Father's Day at The Children's Library, 4/L, Robinsons Galleria. Call 633-7641 local 175 or 176 or at 632-7672.

FAIR. Philtrade Exhibits in cooperation with the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center is hosting "Mother Earth Fair" on June 29 and 30, at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center, Mackinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. The fair features alternative health care, organic agriculture, herbs, scents and native products. Call 820-7879/1570.

SEMINAR. A seminar on "Experiencing Reiki Healing and Flower Essence Therapy" is set on June 12, 2-5 p.m. at the Board Room, Roof Deck, Le Gran Condominium, 45 Eisenhower, Greenhills, San Juan.

A seminar on "Do-It-Yourself Divination" is set on June 15, 2-6 p.m. at the same venue. Call 725-4968.

SEMINAR. The Professional Librarians Review Center will hold a seminar for professionals and paraprofessionals on "Basic Catskills, the AACR2R and the MARC Format" July 9-10 at the University of St. La Salle (USLS), Bacolod City. Resource speaker is Professor Corazon M. Nera.

Call 927-9858, 926-4708, 435-5727 or 0917-2483733, 0917-3480292 or call Hinie Gonzales, Chief Librarian of USLS, (034) 43303526; fax (034) 434-0415 or 0917-4083465.

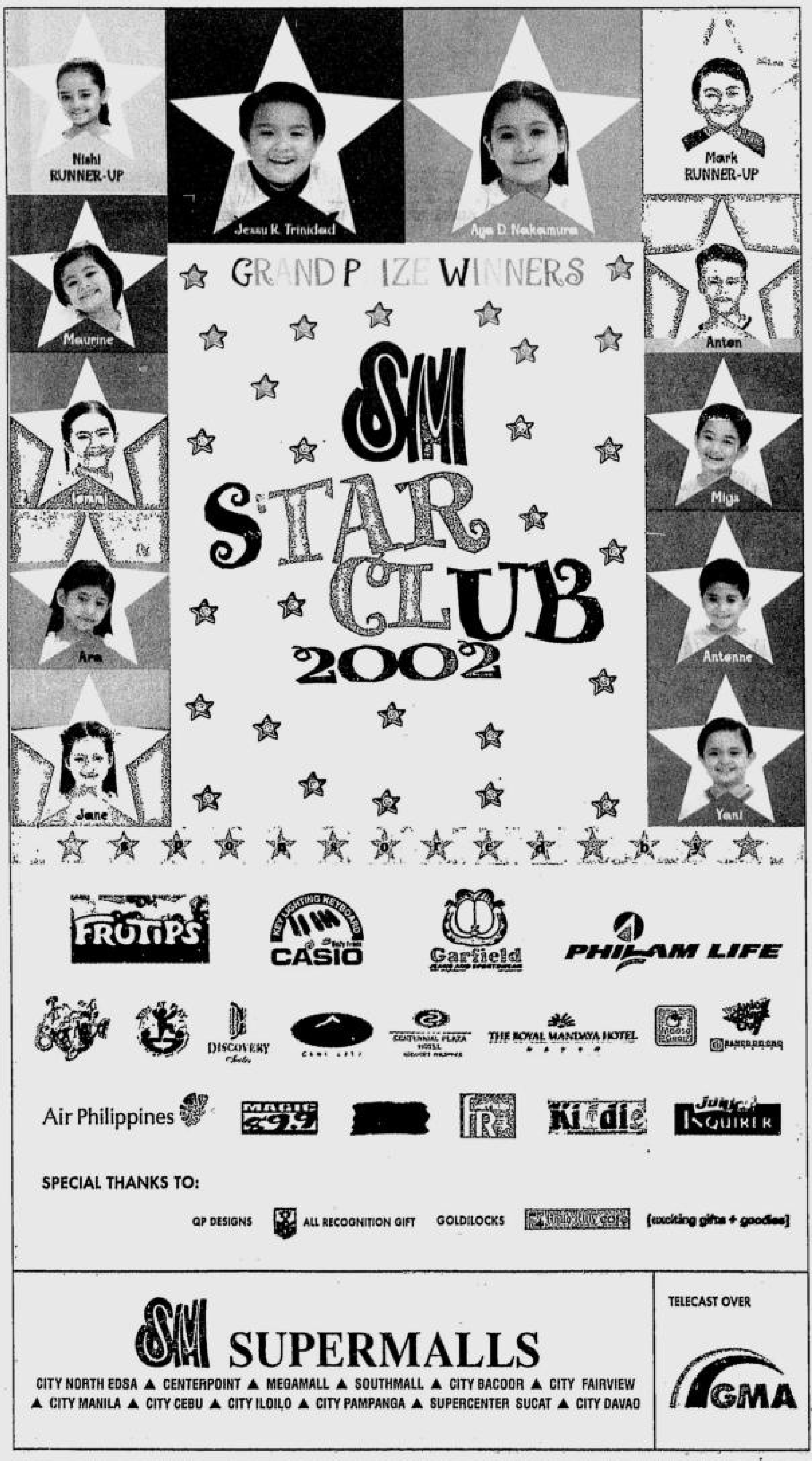
ACTING CLASSES. New acting classes are ongoing until August 28. Ana Valdes-Lim, a graduate of New York's Juilliard School, facilitates the classes. The author of "Workshop: a Manual on Acting" (Anvil), Ana teaches improvisation, scene study, and stage voice techniques. Ana has beginners, intermediate, and advanced classes for children, teens, and adults.

Television actress Leni Rivera will be teaching Commercial, TV, and Film acting beginning June 11 for six weeks. Visit Philippine Playhouse Studio, 1269 Batangas St., 2/F, Makati City or call 879-8230 or 0917-8998158.

ONE-WEEK SALE. The Outlet Yard celebrates Independence Day with a one-week sale on the latest clothes and footwear.

The Independence Day sale from June 8-16 will be held at The Outlet Yard on 1480 Quezon Ave. near Scout Borromeo, which features Maldita, Dickies, Anonymous, P99 Store, Airwalk Limited, Bench, Triumph, Converse and Hush Puppies.

FORUM. The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. will hold a forum "Grants and Grants Seeking: What Librarians and Information Specialists Should Know" on June 28, 8 a.m. at the Epifanio de los Santos Hall, The National Library, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila. Call 526-8295, or fax 931-5566 and 524-9740.



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TELECAST OVER GMA

New hair for old

WOMEN with serious hair problems are now getting expert professional help, and for free.

This is the experience of most women who have visited the Pantene Transformation Centers in selected malls in Metro Manila.

Among them are Kathleen Garcia, Caroline Lontoc and Cecille Webb who, like many others, have taken advantage of the free hair consultation and analysis by a Pantene expert.

Twenty-year-old Ateneo de Manila graduate Kathleen Garcia simply tried it out of desperation after having failed to find the right shampoo and conditioner for her hair all her life. With unusually thin strands, her hair turned out dry and brittle and totally unmanageable after it is exposed to sun and dust.

Another busybody, Caroline Lontoc, 22, has thick, long, straight hair that always ends up looking like a mess of entangled strands gone haywire after a stressful day in an urban preschool she runs.

The 21-year-old Cecille Webb, an active student leader, had slightly wavy hair that was not as smooth and silky as she wanted it to be.

Having been to the transformation center, each of them went through the process of determining each type of hair and how each Pantene variant could transform one's hair into her desired end look—whether smooth and silky, dandruff-free, balanced clean, or with increased volume and fullness all in just 10 days.

The transformation did happen in just 10 days. "My hair has become fuller, volumized and more manageable," Kathleen said as she traced the change to the 10-day continuous usage of Pantene. It was seconded by Caroline, who used the same variant. "Now my hair has more body and full of volume all day." Cecille added, "In just 10 days, my hair has naturally become more well-conditioned and healthier."

KATHLEEN Anne Garcia

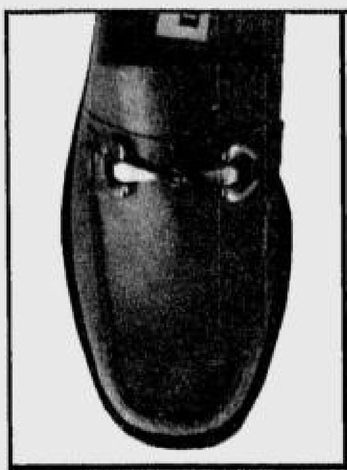
CECILLE Webb

CAROLINE Lontoc

Kathleen, Caroline and Cecille are now sporting the kind of hair that until recently they could only dream about.

Prove
PANTENE
in 10

PANTENE transformation center



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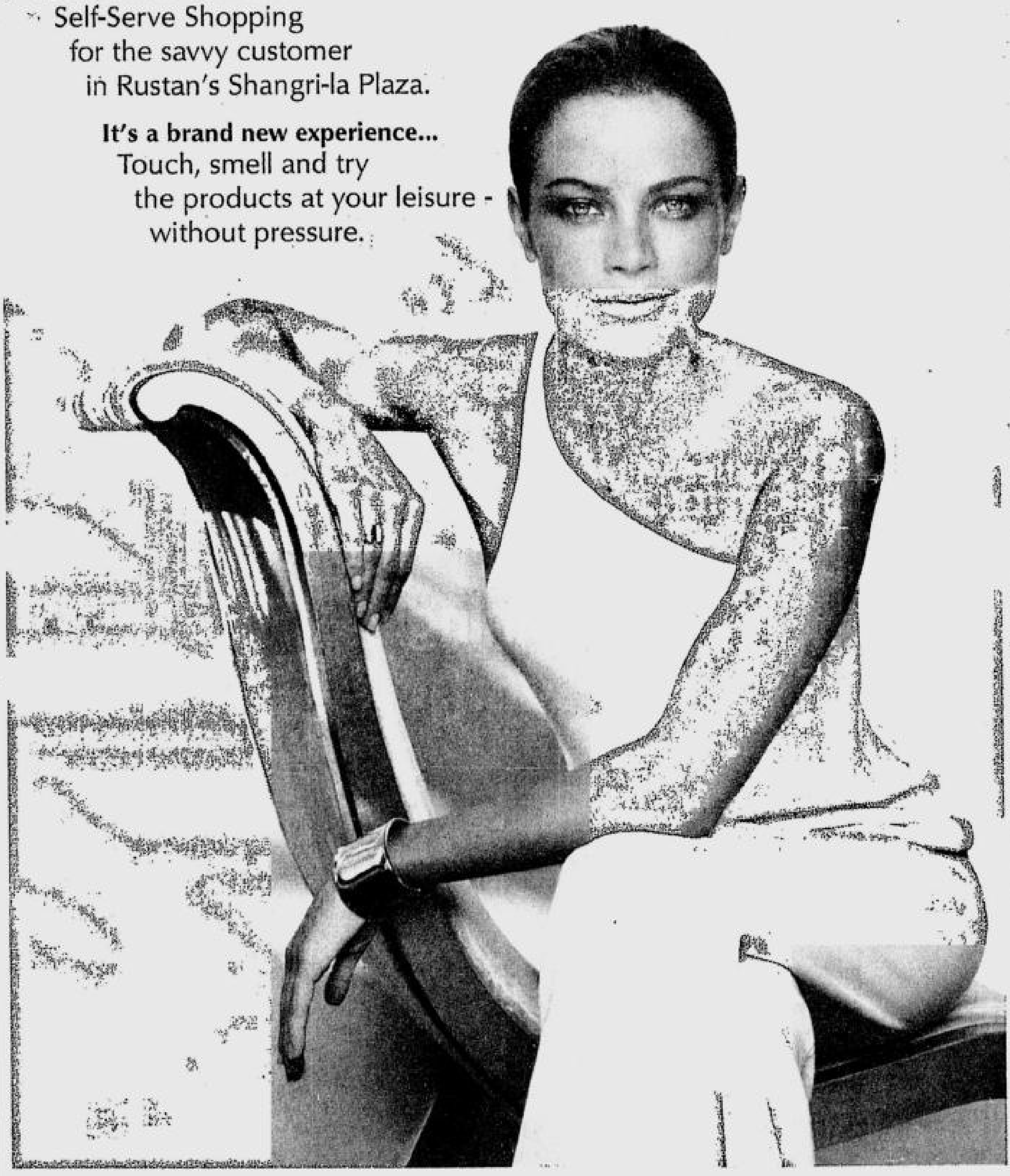

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The end of summer

From page D1

BETTINA Pou (extreme right) with her marketing team

have weekend digs by the coastline.

We drove to Kawayan Cove in Nasugbu. This sprawl of land around the Batangas coastline is developing fast, its attractions undoubtedly being its accessibility, its beaches and its multifaceted terrain. Kawayan has only the beginnings of homes. It's not yet as fully developed as the nearby Punta Fuego and that, to us, is its lure, for now.

That was a barbecue weekend, with friends of the Puyats, who are developing the land, and interested buyers grabbing the invitation for lunch under the tents. **Joey Puyat**, his wife **Tinette**, his sister **Marivic Puyat Limcaoco**, and Kawayan's marketing head **Bettina Pou** showed us what a weekend in Kawayan is like.

It's a lot of swimming of course, solitary walking, viewing the sunset, and when the adrenaline rushes, lots of beach volleyball, with the likes of **Mavis Manotoc Fuentebella**, who's now with Bettina's marketing staff, joining in.

That weekend had a bonus: **Cory Quirino** led a meditation at sundown. Cory, who remembers Kawayan Cove as the Bamboo Beach of her childhood, did ample sales talk to entice me into meditation—and keep still. Quite an experience.

Cory's meditation exercise is perfect for women, her eloquent words lulling you into placidity and inner probing. You are empowered, she whispered (I am). You have an identity (I have). You have power (no comment). You have peace (depends). You are loved (depends, again). You are beautiful (which era?). You can forgive and forget (let me count the exceptions, okay?). Overall, I liked the sprinkling of salt water.

Frankly, I think men need this meditation—badly.

However, before I went into this meditation, Annie, Cory and Bettina drove me to Punta Fuego and allowed me my tennis—hit a few balls before the attainment of inner peace. Punta Fuego, with its tile-roofed concrete houses, reminds me of Ayala Alabang, but with a coastline vista and chic infinity pools that are so in vogue now. This place has an affluent community building up. In that midst, I did my rally on the hard court in the heat of the four-o'clock sun, to Cory's protestation. After an hour's workout, I was content with my sweat and it began to drizzle. Again, the rain knew when to intrude.

Joey Puyat had a beautiful idea about the houses buyers can build in Kawayan Cove—they will be "Asian modern" in style, like a modified Bali architecture. I think he's on the right track. Houses built along the coastline or amid the vista as natural and breathtaking as Kawayan's must hew closely to the character of the landscape. It shouldn't be the full-concrete, faux colonial architecture that's so dependent on air-conditioning, and that's bound to be ornate and pretentious. It should be a style that hardly separates the outdoor from the indoor. Only then do you feel that you're away from the concrete jungle and all its stress-agent mutants.

After a day at Kawayan Cove, Bettina set us up at the nearby Punta Baluarte for the night. I was surprised that Punta Baluarte wasn't as rundown as I expected. Its rooms were comfortable and complete with the amenities. Apparently, it remains a choice for corporate events.

We met up with its manager, **Levy Layug**, the seasoned hotelier who has served many Presidents and heads of state at Manila Hotel. Annie and Levy spent the whole brunch the next morning reminiscing about those interesting years, which sounded colorful enough to make me prod Levy to write a book on them—from the Marcos to the Erap years.

Indeed a weekend lifestyle is shaping up fast in the south, like never before. Calatagan, Nasugbu, or even the nearby Canlubang are filling up with weekend homes, like Tali did decades ago or Subic did a decade ago. These homes are giving birth to communities—affluent families so familiar with each other who settle down in droves in places of vogue. The constructions of these homes are defining the face of the coastline of the south, and their filling up with weekend habitues is giving energy to dining, sporting activities that compose a lifestyle.

From water sports, golf to spa, aromatherapy and meditation sessions, to dining, this lifestyle should be interesting to watch this decade.

It'll be the hallmark of the early 21st century, when the Filipino urbanite is beginning to take his weekend seriously, and his vacation even more diligently, just like Americans or the richer Asians do. You have here the Filipino family who's beginning to assert its lifestyle—away from the daily grind—and is willing to invest in it.

Subic spree

I ended summer with my family in Subic. I drove because I liked to and discovered that our national highways couldn't ever be tourist-friendly for as long as tricycles were allowed to ply the routes.

At worse, tricycles are a hazard, a fatal one, to the uninitiated driver, and at least, a nuisance to the seasoned one. Before tourism officials can brag about in-land destinations, they must first zone the tricycles. You can't hype big-time to First-World markets, without doing something about tricycles on the national highways.

It's always tough to make your interests jibe with those of your kids who are too young to be independent, yet old enough to feel they are independent. They did their jet skiing, their basketball and swimming while I stuck to, you guessed it, my tennis—all at the Subic Yacht Club, where I missed the presence of **Vicvic Villavicencio**, though his cousin **Mari Vargas** was running the place quite smoothly. For the first time, on my visit at the Club, I tried its Swedish massage in the spa—a rare time I indulged myself, without the adrenaline rush I'm obviously addicted to. It was very good.

The Royal Subic is obviously a habit among Subic weekenders—they begin and end their stay with a visit there. Unlike in Clark, this is filled to the last shelf, with good buys in clothes and groceries. As we made our way to the car, a heavy downpour came.

Perfect timing. This year the rains treated summer with deference. Filipinos like us, who have only the wet and dry seasons, thank God for such small blessings.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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Second Place - P5,000 worth of Toby's Gift Certificates
Third Place - P2,000 worth of Toby's Gift Certificates
Skateboarding Team Competition
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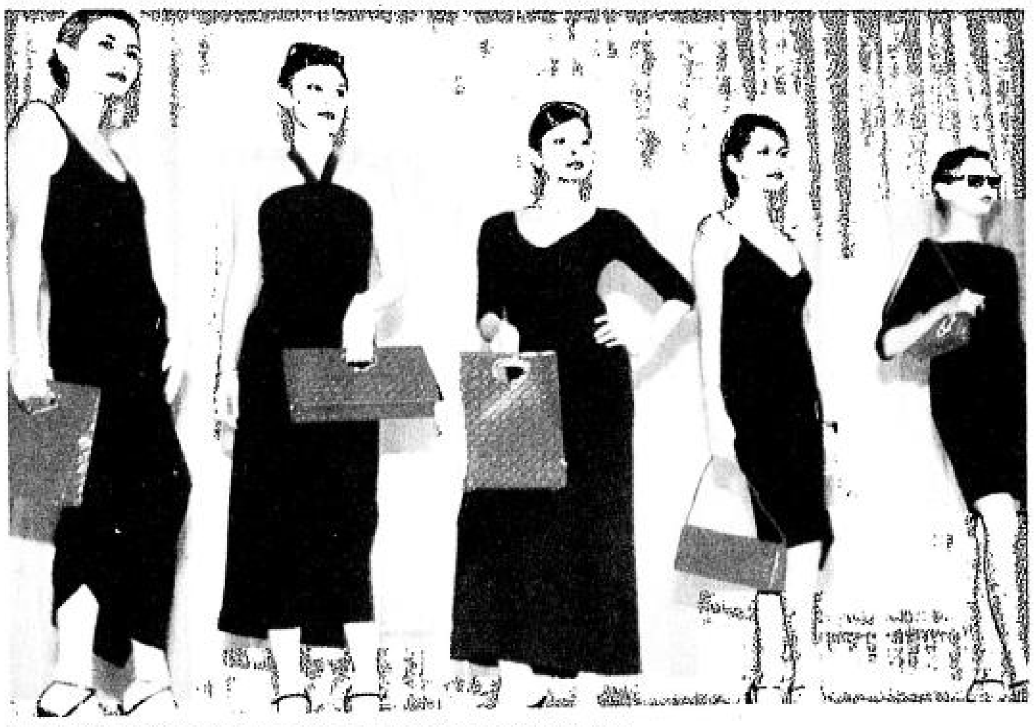
ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto Colesanti, Gina de Venecia, Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., Sen. Frank Drilon, Sen. Loren Legarda and Clara Colesanti at the launch party

Charriol spreads magic



THE CORALIE Charriol bag collection regional presentation

THE FASHION show "Magical Colors of Charriol World" at the Makati Shangri-La launched a new line of leather handbags designed by Coralie Charriol and the 2002 collection of Charriol watches and jewelry.

The Rizal Ballroom sported a billowy white canopy ala "Arabian Nights." Venetian carnival figures dangled from the ceiling. Magicians, mime artists, stilt-walkers and fire acrobats flitted in and out.

Enjoying the show were Bienvenido Tantoco, chair of the Rustan Group of Companies; Nedy Tantoco and Anton Huang, president and executive vice president of Store Specialists Inc.; and the suave Frenchman Philippe Charriol himself, his wifeAnnick and their designing daughter Coralie.

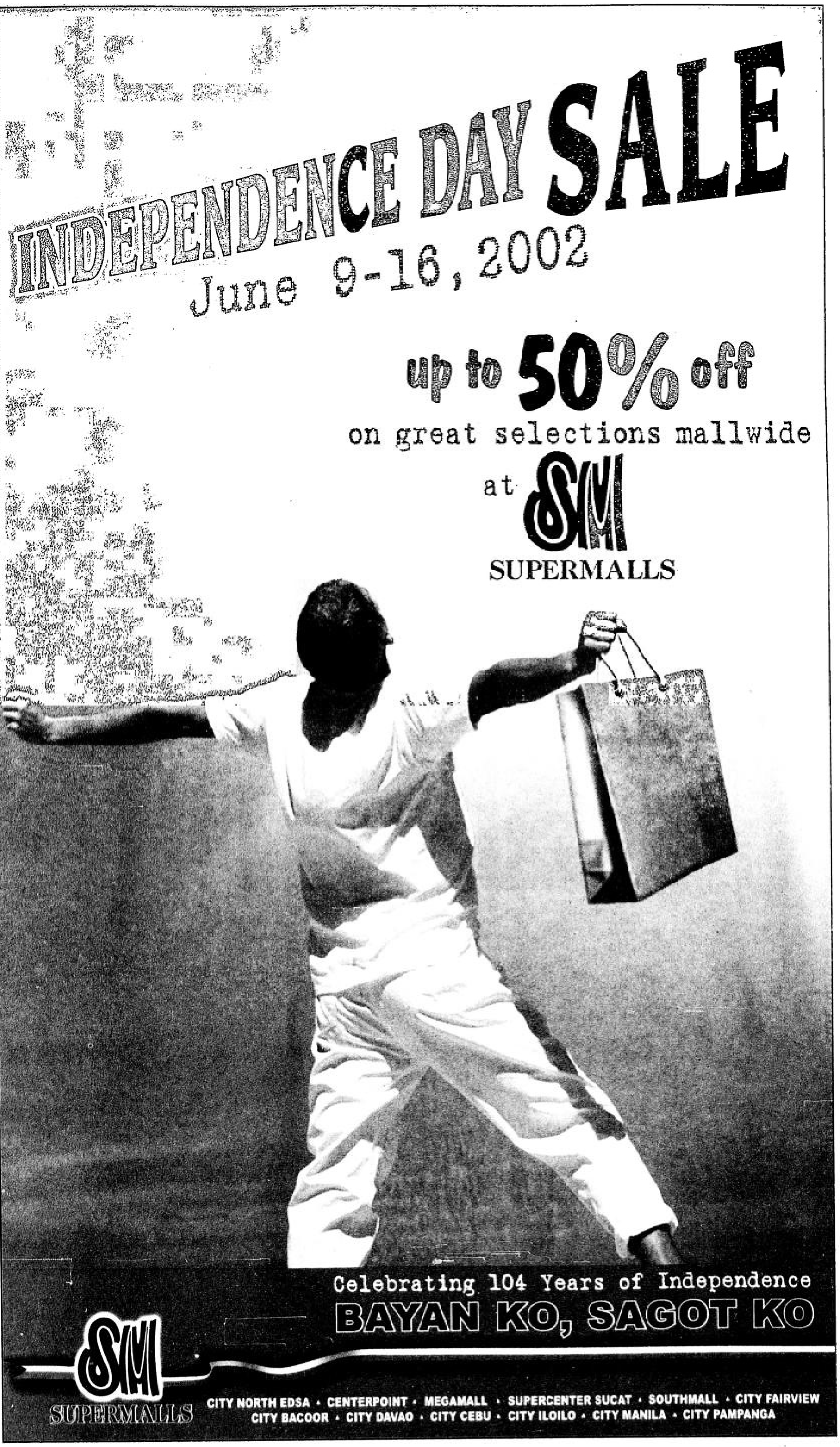
Also present were Arthur and Mariter Macapagal, Senate President Frank Drilon, and Senators Loren Legarda-Leviste and Jun Magsaysay, and Gina De Venecia.

ANTON Huang with Annick and Philippe Charriol

NINA Huang and Coralie Charriol

DIANA Jean Lopez and Inno Sotto

SUSAN P. Joven, Miriam Quiambao and Philippe Charriol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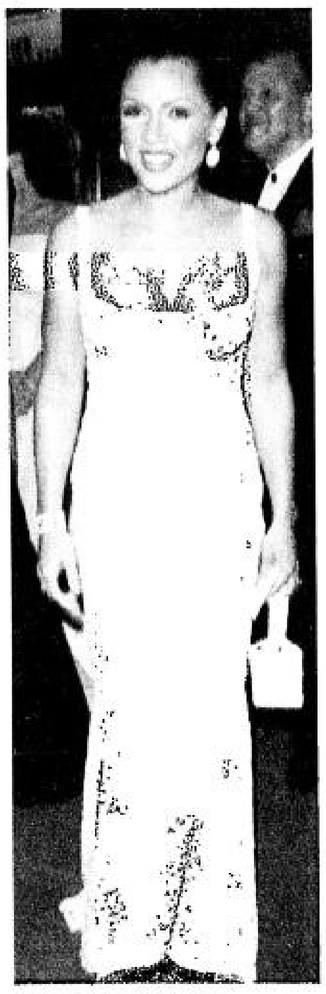

VANESSA Williams

BERNADETTE Peters

CALISTA Flockhart

ANNE Heche

All dressed up for a tony night in NYC

KATIE Finneran and Frank Langella, best featured actress and actor in a play

LIAM Neeson and wife Natasha Richardson

HARRY Connick Jr. and wife Jill

THE TONY Awards, American theater's applause for and recognition of the year's outstanding performances on Broadway and off, is as much a glam event as the American film industry's Oscars.

The audience at the stage awards might have been more respectful than the cinema crowd but they ogled just as much when performers showed up all dolled-up.

Theater attendance was down slightly from the previous year but as Jed Bernstein, head of the League of American Theatres and Producers, put it, "Broadway has rebounded" since 9/11 left a traumatized New York reeling in the resulting economic downturn.

"Thoroughly Modern Millie," the musical about a Jazz Age dancer, won six Tony Awards, including best musical, lead actress-musical (Sutton Foster), featured actress-musical (Harriet Harris), choreography (Rob Ashford), costumes (Martin Pakledinaz) and orchestrations (Doug Besterman and Ralph Burns).

"The Goat," a drama-comedy penned by Edward Albee, won best play. "Into the Woods" got the musical-revival prize.

Katie Finneran was named best featured actress-play category while Shuler Hensley was the featured actor-musical for his role in the revival of "Oklahoma!"

WHOOPI Goldberg and Alicia Silverstone

PHOTOS: AFP

BADDEO with models

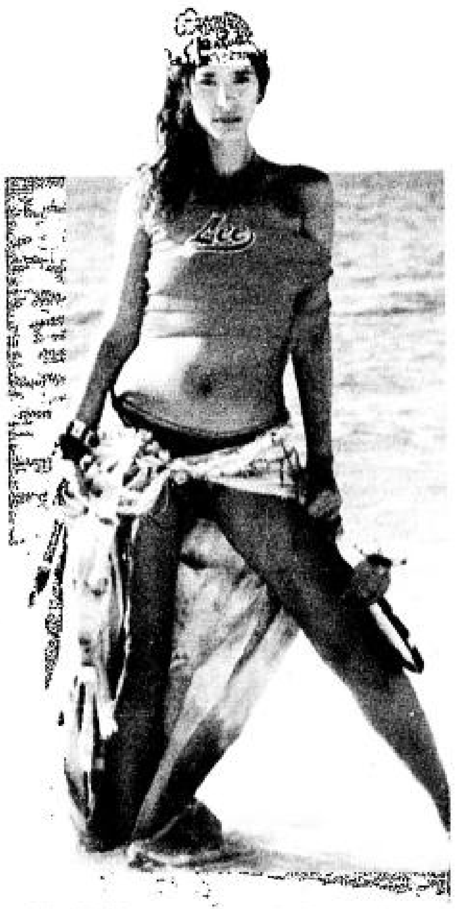
Personal choice is key in today's fashion

THERE'S definitely no singular style that's hot this season," says designer Eddie Baddeo. "Colors clash, textures collide and cultures widely mix. One can go from demurely romantic ruffles and seductive sheers, to hard-edge denims and leather. The choices are yours. So let your attitude dress you up in style."

Baddeo presented his 21-piece spring/summer collection at the Eastwood City Walk in Libis, QC, recently. It was produced by Celadon Asian Cuisine resto and Behind the Scene Productions, under the direction of Ricci Reyes Ang. It was sponsored by Ellen's Skin Care Center-Libis, bags by Ish, footwear by Wilson shoes, Balay Kandila, Citylite 88.3 and Joey 92.3.

Baddeo's spring/summer collection is available at his studio at 63 West Ave., QC, with tel. 371-5843/9384.

ACTRESS Mylene Dizon is beach chic in asymmetric tee and denim cut-off miniskirt.


MYX VJ Clara Balaguer in red-hot off-shoulder top

'Scandal' standout

AS summer comes to an end, Lee Denim USA gives a last hurrah with temperature-rising outfits modeled by actress Mylene Dizon, Passage keyboardist Ira Cruz and MYX VJ Clara Balaguer.

"Scandal," "Road Trip," "Old Movies," "Denim Queen/Graphic Empire" and "Vertical Limit" are Lee's five new lines.

The Lee collection is casual wear that's chic and cocky, outrageous as it is intriguing. It is streetwear with tons of attitude. The hot pants are flaming with passion; the psychedelic colors are bursting with excitement.

These photos were taken at the recent Lee Denim Revolution in Boracay.

RACY AND INTRIGUING. Ira Cruz is in bleached-finish denims and shirt with stylish porno details.

Attracted to a former classmate

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

Dear Tita Dulce,

My problem started a few months ago. I met this guy in school, who was taking up the same technical course.

At the start of the semester, I did not bother to know his name, or even look at him. As days passed, I got to know him and found him cute. He was the only one among our male classmates who never skipped classes. At times I would catch him staring at me. Even though I felt attracted to him, I did not flirt because I still prefer the old-fashioned way. We became good friends and I found him sweet and nice.

He graduated with a bronze medal last March. Our last meeting was when he went to our school to return his toga.

I miss him and I regret we got to know each other only for a short time. I don't know if I will be able to meet him again. Shall I keep on hoping for the future?

RONALIZA

Keep cool. Now that it is school year again, concentrate on your studies. Your priority should be the course you are taking up, so that your future will be assured.

The power of the mind is the key to success. Don't yield to the thoughts of missing him. If he was also attracted to you, he will get in touch with you. If he is now focused on looking for a job, and you are out of his mind, accept it, and just keep calm. You have your own life to live, and blessings will go to you if you deserve them.

Also, rest assured that you are not the only one missing someone. In my calculation, at least five of every 10 teenage schoolgirls nowadays are secretly attracted to schoolmates, but of course they keep it to themselves.

It's good that you prefer the old-fashioned way of courtship. This is the nth time that I'll remind all ladies, young and old—let a man chase you first, before you catch him. Being flirty will of course attract them at first, but it won't last. There are of course exceptions to everything. Just bear in mind that love in a man's life is only a part; it is a woman's whole existence. But then again, everything changes in this world.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

The New York look in makeup

HOST Sarah Meier

MANY women may find it difficult choosing the perfect makeup color that blends well with their skin. Za New York, which was recently launched, has come up with the solution to this problem because the color of the product that you see on the box is the same shade that appears on the skin when applied. You can choose from their line of Tinted Moisturizer, 2-Way Foundation, Transpowder, eyebrow pencils and trendy shades of Aqualish lipstick.

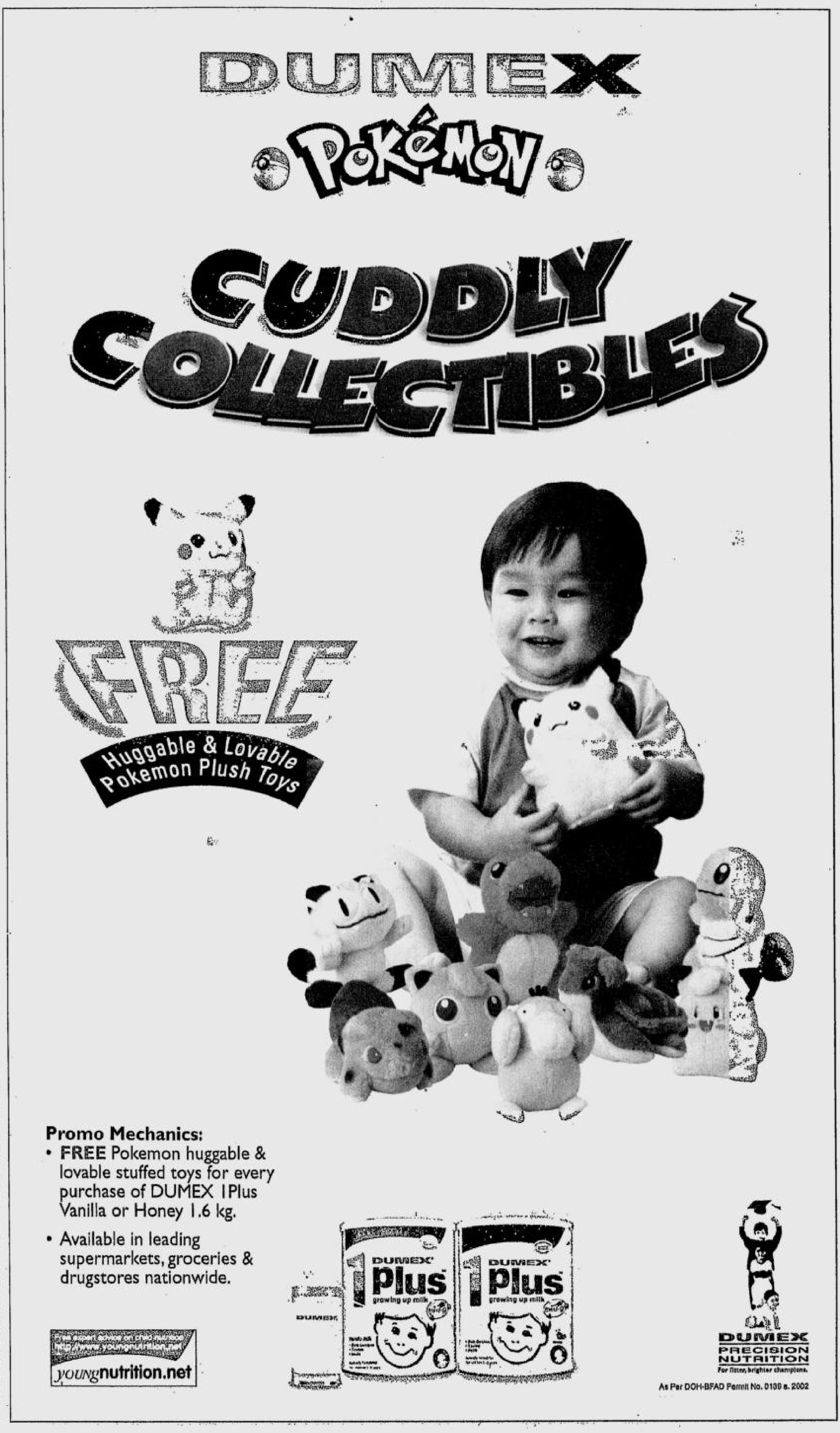
The launch at Mazzo Bar in Libis, QC, that was hosted by RX 93 DJs Evette and Fran with model Sarah Meier and organized by Summit Events, had a fashion presentation that showed casual, day and evening looks using Za products. Topshop, Topman and Miss Selfridge provided the striking outfits.

Za New York also launched that evening the television ad of their new lipstick called Lip Aqualish and introduced to the crowd image model Lilibeth Mone.

Brand manager Lani Aquino proudly noted that unlike other lipstick brands, Lip Aqualish has a moisturizing formula and Vitamin E that keeps lips soft, full and supple all day long.

Za New York makeup and skin care products are available at Robinsons, Shoemart, Ever, Crossings and Plaza Fair Department Stores, PCX, Landmark, Metro Ayala Cebu, Sta. Lucia, Shopwise and Cinderella outlets.

MODELS in Topshop and Miss Selfridge outfits at the Za New York launch



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Tracing the scented Trastevere trail

When in Rome, hie off to a pharmacy and a perfumery for off-the-beaten path shopping

THE BEST of the best in European perfume lines is at Roma-Store in the funky Trastevere district in Rome. Roma-Store Via della Lungaretta,63 06-581-87-89 ROMASTORE63@hotmail.com (for orders and worldwide shipping)

By Kitty Go
Contributor

ONE OF my favorite districts in Rome is the Trastevere, home to the churches of Santa Maria in Trastevere (where else? You didn't think it was Paris, did you?) and the Santa Maria della Scala. I used to hate Rome (still do 80% of the time). I believed (and still do 100% of the time) that Rome would be a better place if not for the Italians. However, Trastevere single-handedly resurrected my subterranean impression of Rome and its people. This area represents everything I love in life—unpretentiousness, quirkiness, shady history and a beautiful botanical garden near Villa Farnesina, popular only to residents. "Popular only to residents" is the best part as I abhor the beaten tourist path, which comprises 95.99% of Rome.

FARMACIA at Church of Santa Maria della Scala Via Garibaldi and Via della Scala

The Church of Santa Maria in Trastevere also stands for what I think a church should be: a place for worship and not a symbol of power. Like the medieval church Santa Maria Cosmedin in the Aventine Hill, the Santa Maria Trastevere is historically artistic and important (3rd to 19th Century), quietly grand yet free of the ostentation of Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican and the Church of Santo Ignazio in the Pantheon area that make you ashamed to be Catholic.

Happening

Trastevere has not changed very much since the Roman Empire when it was home to immigrants and Jews. Today it is relatively dead by day but alive at night. The place reminds me of the days before the gentrification of New York's Soho and London's Notting Hill Gate. There are lots of little owner-run antique and clothing stores, cafes and restaurants. I love Romolo, a former Michaelangelo hangout and house of Rafael's mistress. Today it is a lovely restaurant with equally great food and service (a rarity in Rome). If I had to marry again (uh-oh, that would be the third time!), it would be here. Of course I said that about the Bel-Air Hotel but instead I got the Banker's Club in Hong Kong.

A giveaway that the neighborhood is hip and happening is the presence of an upscale beauty supply or pharmacy. It's not that Trastevere never had some *farmacia* catering to the A-list. The Church of Santa Maria della Scala has had its current *farmacia* (next to the church entrance) since the 17th Century. In the 19th Century, it was the pharmacy to the popes. The Jesuits supposedly had a similar pharmacy in the Philippines at about the same time.

Today the della Scala pharmacy sells prescription and over-the-counter drugs and sundries but still carries 18th Century "hysteria water" and other Carmelite concoctions. The apothecary maintains the original design with frescoed walls bearing images of saints, famous doctors and celebrity visitors throughout history. On counters and behind ancient frescoed wooden cabinets are stone and bronze mortars and ceramic urns labeled in Gothic script.

Hip factor

However, it is the delightful destination *profumeria* Roma-Store that contributes to the hip factor of Trastevere. It doesn't classify itself as a mere *profumeria* but a *profumeria selettiva*. And *selecttiva* it is. The owner, Ms Graziana, carries the best of the best perfume and make-up lines, usually cultish but verging on the mainstream such as T. LeClerc make-up and French lines Creed, Diptyque, Comptoir Sud Pacifique and L'Artisan Parfumeur. Local Italian brands such as the beautifully bottled Lorenzo Villorenzi, Etro and what I classify as the "Nenuco" of Italy, Acqua di Parma, are lined up next to their British counterparts like Czech and Speake and Floris. You will also find the entire line of Herbas di Ibiza from Spain and scents with a devoted albeit kitsch (read: matronic/DOM) following such as Ivoire de Balmain, Grey Flannel and Knize (known to be Manolo Blahnik's choice scent).

I have fallen in love with the perfume line, Maitre Parfumeur et Gantier (MPG). Tubereuse has an edge over Fracas and Eau de Mure sets you apart from the berry and musk blends crowding today's synthetic perfume market. The founder, Jean-Francois Laporte, also started the now popular L'Artisan Parfumeur. However, with MPG, in their blood red bottles, he takes the line several levels up in terms of rarity of ingredients, adventurousness of blends and of course, priced from 88-150 euros/US dollars. The rarity and quality of ingredients offer fans "originality and unique distinction."

E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com

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NATIVE SALAD
Tinapa, chicharon and a choice of two dressings give this native salad a unique twist.

Ingredients:

Salad:

4 cups	blanched kamote tops
1/2 cup	minced onions
1 cup	tomatoes cut into thin wedges
1/2 cup	flaked tinapa
1/4 cup	ground chicharon

Spicy Vinaigrette Dressing: Whisk --

1/4 cup	vinegar
1 1/2 tbsps.	MAGGI SAVOR, Garlic Flavor
2 tbsps.	olive oil
1 tsp.	crushed garlic
1/2 tsp.	prepared mustard
	dash of salt
	sugar to taste

Creamy Ranch Dressing: Combine --

125 g.	NESTLE YOGURT, Natural
2 tbsps.	mayonnaise
1/2 tsp.	vinegar
1 tsp.	Dijon mustard
	dash of black pepper
	dash of dried thyme leaves
	sugar to taste
1 tsp.	lemon juice
1/2 tbsp.	minced spring onions

Procedure:

Put a little salt in boiling water before adding kamote tops. Cook for 2 minutes and drain well. Toss the rest of the ingredients for the salad except for tinapa & chicharon. Toss salad with a choice of the 2 dressings and sprinkle tinapa & chicharon on top.

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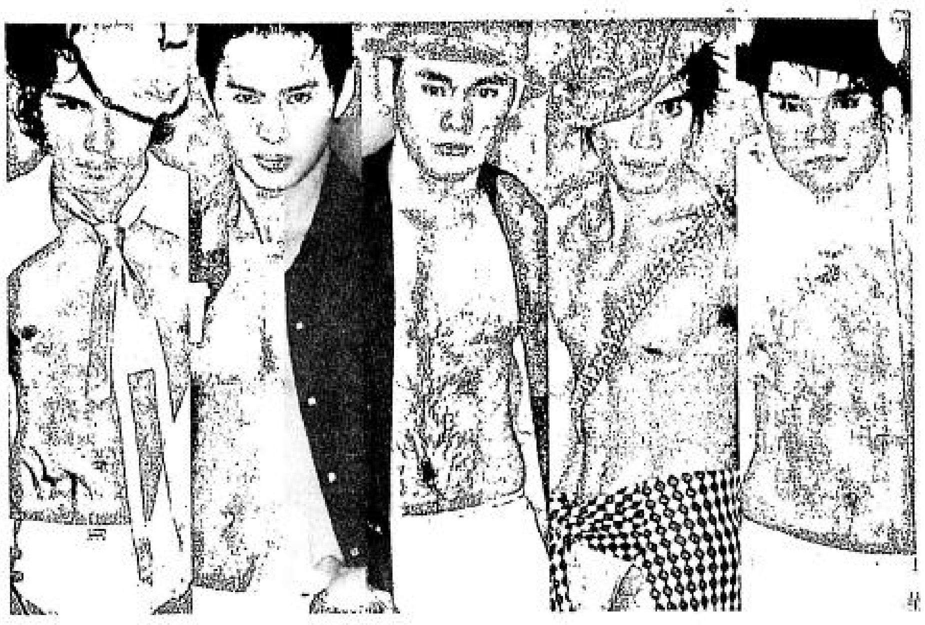
LIFESTYLE



Get ready for a 'One Night' stand

Text and styling by Tim Yap
Photos by Ronnie Salvacion

WITH THE ONSLAUGHT of male vanity, gone are the days when men played second fiddle to the opposite sex in fashion. Conspicuous consumption, frivolity and fickleness are qualities that men nowadays can relate to. Factor in male celebrities and supermodels plus fashion's ever-changing whim and you get more testosterone than you've ever bargained for.

The focus has undoubtedly shifted to the male form. Hard chests, bulging arms and tight buns fill the pages of magazines, billboards and television. Credit goes to Calvin Klein for exposing the male body down to its barest essential. From all-American Marky Mark's tight abs to Aussie wonder boy Travis' awesome gift creating a stir among New York residents (where his billboard is pompously displayed on the facade of a downtown building), you know the men (and women) are coming. No pun intended.

In this town, everyone is abuzz about the biggest "One Night Only" event by local giant Bench, whose underwear line has been hug-

GET/ p.E4

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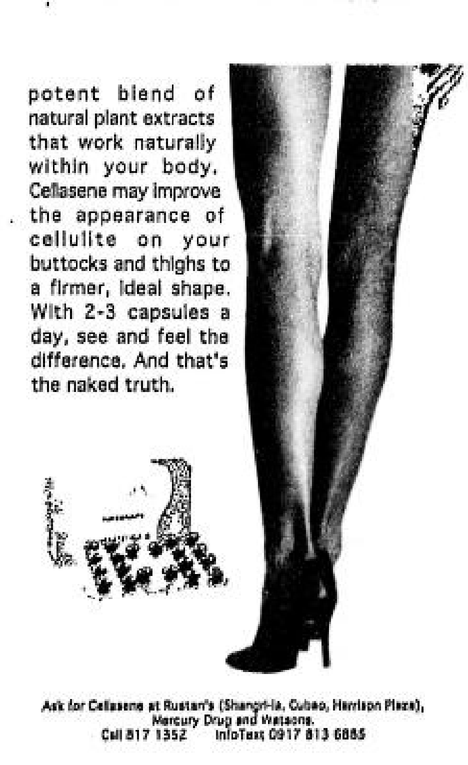

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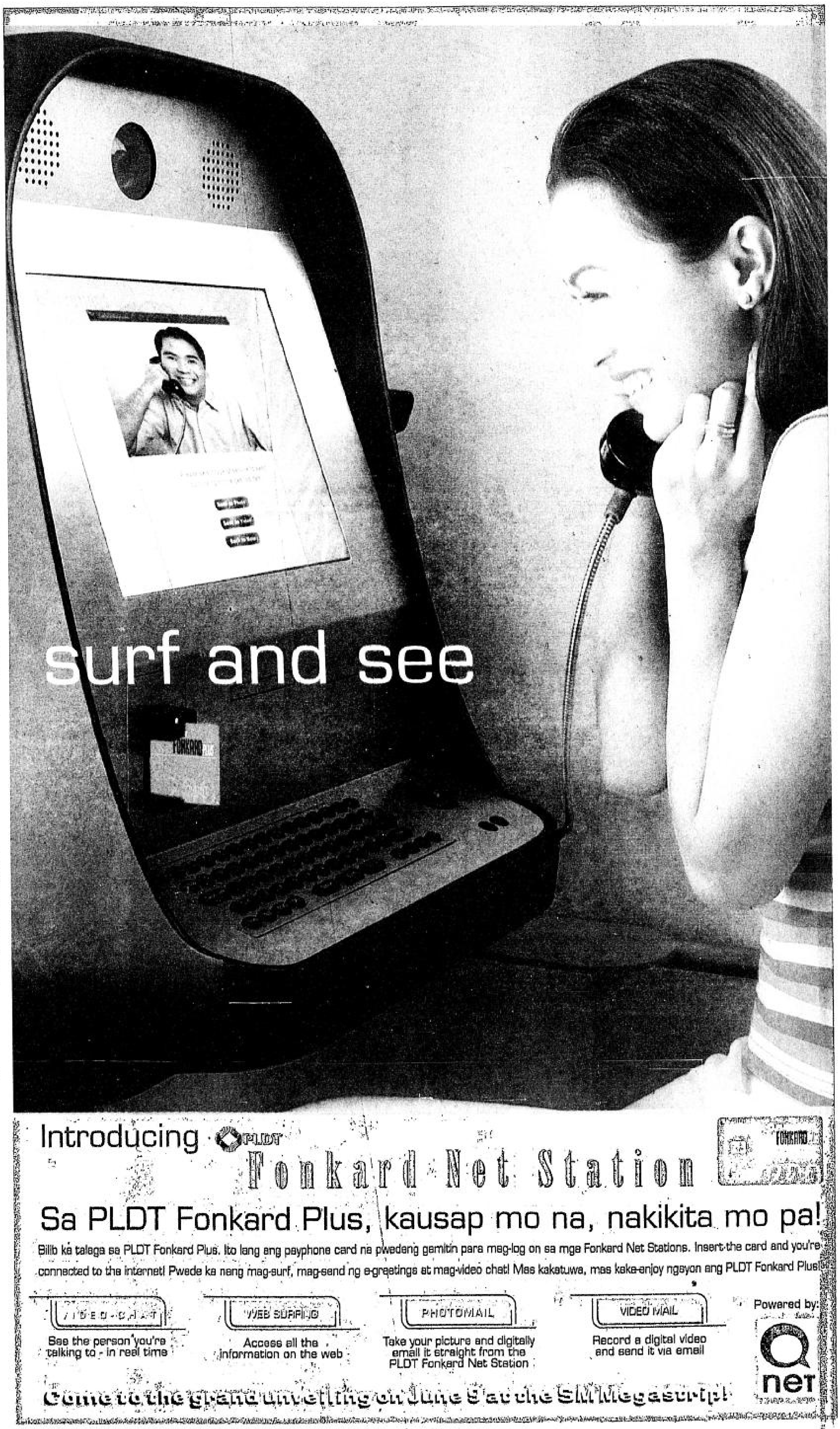

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Come to the grand unveiling on June 9 at the SM Megastrip!

Marc Jacobs spins biker and rock 'n' roll fashion

MARC Jacobs signs his name to the new men's collection of Louis Vuitton inspired by Gus Van Sant's film "My Own Private Idaho."

Jacobs has created the image of a young man who lives to travel, with a relaxed collection that has all the qualities of chic, contemporary and masculine appeal.

Leather is a key material used this season to create a range of calfskin bikers' jackets in black, brown and petrol blue. These models exist with or without sleeves, featuring zip fasteners positioned to one side, numerous pockets and small fastening attachments that allow the jacket to be adjusted closely on the waist.

The presence of suede in the collection marks a new approach to the working of leather, which is a traditional area of expertise for the house of Louis Vuitton. Brown suede adds a special touch to the biker's outfit and has been used to stylize trousers, a jacket with lacing effect as well as a jeans-style jacket.

Jacobs has come up with exceptional pieces in wool: three-piece, black and gray pinstripe suits with double-breasted jackets, one-pleat straight-cut trousers and matching waistcoats.

Blue, off-white or beige, the double-breasted cotton whipcord coat adds a touch of Victorian romanticism to the collection. For a modern romantic look, the black, flower-patterned, damask cotton jackets and waistcoats are teamed up with fabrics such as denim or hand-washed poplin. The striped cotton damask trousers make reference to the all-masculine rock 'n' roll inspiration.

LAYERING knitwear and pinstripes

The new summer version of the Louis Vuitton dinner suit is an impressive piece styled in either white or black satin cotton. The white waistcoat and one-tone striped shirt provides the finishing touch to this luxurious and contemporary outfit.

Furthering the theme of the striped trousers in last summer's collection, this season sees a return of the striped off-white and black, or off-white and brown cotton and cashmere trousers and matching waistcoat.

Hand-washed cotton makes an appearance in this collection and gives an on-the-road biker feel to the outfits. Chic but relaxed, the look features a striped cotton poplin hand-washed shirt with a whipcord coat, a cotton damask waistcoat and cotton denim jeans. In the same fabric, the collection also features button-up, straight pajama trousers, cut wider around the back and a sleeveless jacket with a lace-up effect on the hips. Cotton voile handwashed shirts are also used as the ideal partner for a number of designs, such as prints with broken stripe, squares or the one-tone shirtfront. The zipped flying suit in hand-washed cotton took its direct inspiration from the film.

Denim cotton is one of the key looks to Jacobs' reinterpretation of a classical style. Teamed with more conventional wool jackets, he makes a strong image by styling suit jackets with it. Another highlight in the collection are the sexy, cotton trousers featuring broken stripes, which are slim-cut at the base of the leg and worn slightly longer so that they crease across the boots.

SLIM-CUT pants crease across the boots.

COTTON shirt teamed with classic wool jacket

Again this season, Jacobs created a wide variety of knitwear. Highlights include thick, large-knit tee shirts with button-down collars, cotton jersey sleeveless tee shirts in stunning black, blue gray and peach, as well as ivory-colored silk jersey. The V-neck light-gray cotton sweater braided with red and blue stripes is worn over a V-neck, one-tone blue cotton sweater.

Louis Vuitton is located at the G/F level of 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Visit the website at www.vuitton.com.

Manly pursuits

Cool and trendy

MARLBORO Classics' inspirations for this season are the blanched and sandblasted denim, the vintage military mode of utility and the modern graphics of American classics. Denim is elaborated with burgundy-blazed, sand-stoned, fire-tinted, resin-coated two-tone effects. Utility features multi-functional jersey tops like jaguar V-necks, safari halters and tropical sleeveless shirts and army motifs of khaki green slacks and bleached-out trousers. American Classics offers hooded riding coats, small-tartan country shirts and lightweight nylon parkas. Available at Glorietta, Megamall B, Power Plant Mall, Robinsons Place Manila, Rustan's Makati, Alabang Town Center and Festival Supermall.

Stylish and comfortable

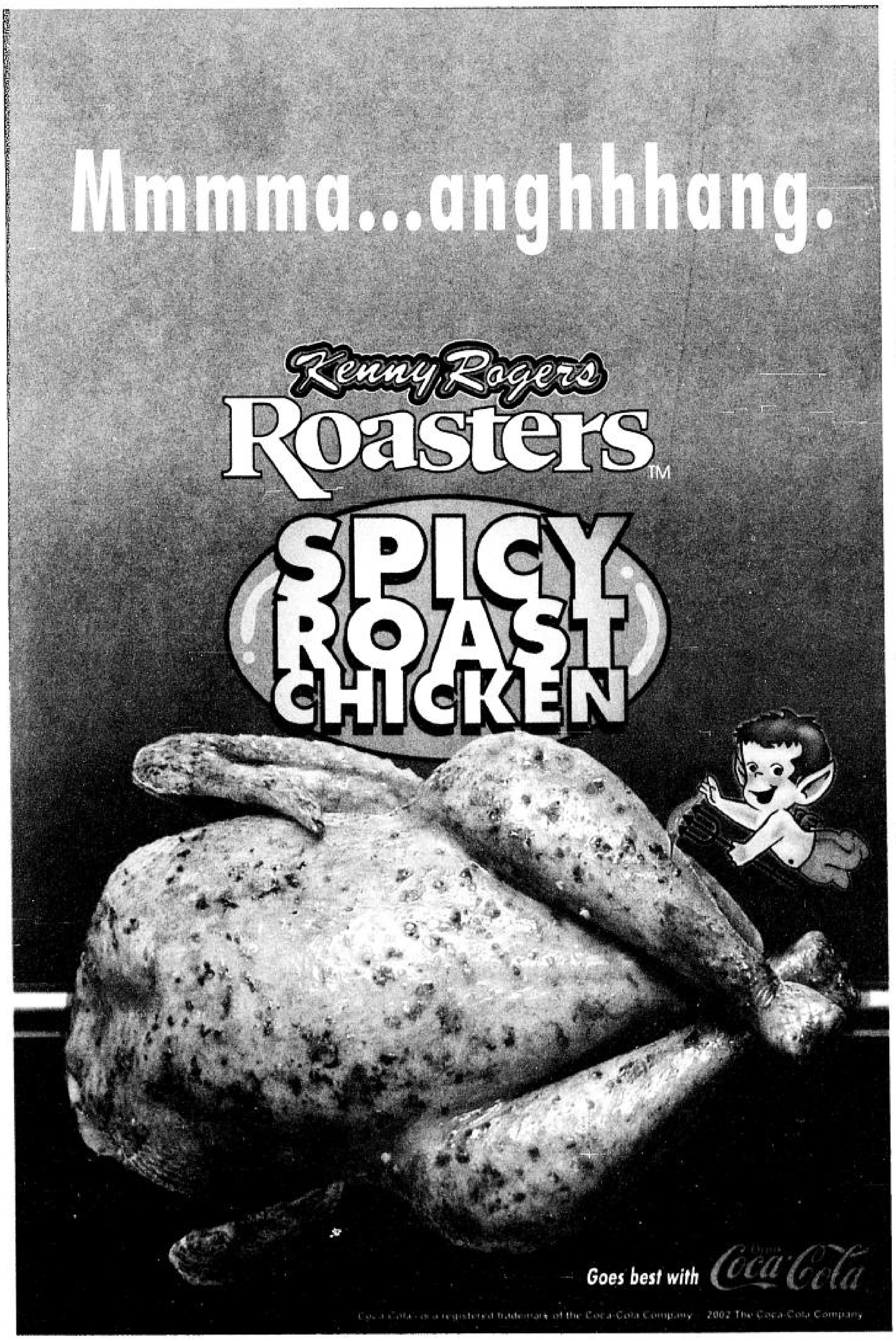
MARKS & Spencer introduces Blue Harbour, a new range of casual wear for men. It consists of polos, T-shirts and cotton polo shirts, which can be teamed with chinos or denims. The look is completed with a variety of footwear and other accessories. All come in blue and beige and contrasting reds, navy and white. Marks & Spencer boutiques are located at Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt Mall, Ayala Center Cebu, Alabang Town Center, Megamall B, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Robinsons Place Ermita, Harrison Plaza and Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

Casual chic

BRITISH INDIA offers casual wear for men and women. Colors vary from red, pink and fuschia to mocha, chocolate and green. There are combinations of cotton and silk, linen with nylon, lycra and tencel. Two-faced nylon jacket with white shirt paired is paired with drawstring pants. The collection also features a range of redesigned mandarin collared shirts made of Shantung and Dupploni silks, which make for great alternative to the shirt-and-tie dinner wear. Available at Cinderella outlets and Robinsons Place Manila.

Reinventing sweaters

Celebrate with Claiborne's Father's Day promo until June 16 at Claiborne Glorietta 4 and Claiborne Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Claiborne Men showcases sweaters in space dyed yarns, arrow stitch jacquards, printed textural polynosics and dimensional feedstripes add to the casual aspect of spring. Linear Deco's sweaters have reversible V-neck, colored mixed yarns of slub, hand-embroidered motifs across a staggered rib and a lattice feedstripe V-neck.



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Shop of authentic silver jewelry opens

MICHELIS Gifts and Jewellery, maker of authentic silver jewelry, unveils its newest store at the Rockwell Center's Power Plant Mall.

Among the popular range of Michelis are collections of colored stones like citrine, peridot, topaz, amethyst as accents to silver jewelry pieces; mother of pearl, freshwater pearl; cuff links and studs for boys and men; Arrhae bracelets; identity bracelet and necklace accessorized by heart-shaped charms; silver pendants with colored neoprene cord in different colors like champagne and aqua; flower rings and marquis outline rings; and Lariat necklace with Lapiz Lazuli stone.

These silver creations have the same quality finish, guaranteed to possess a minimum 92.5-95.2 percent level of purity required by the international market, and crafted according to European standards. They are featured in a wide range of chains, rings, bracelets and other jewelry pieces at affordable prices.

Michelis Gifts and Jewellery is also located at Greenbelt and at the lobby of the Manila Peninsula. Call 812-3456 local 2996.

Manufacturers invited to join bazaar

MANUFACTURERS of garments, house wares, novelty items, accessories, pappies, leather goods and holiday decors are invited to join the Noel Bazaar series. This year, three foundations are chosen to benefit from the Noel Bazaar series—Bantayog ng Mga Bayani Foundation, Leukemic Indigents Fund Endowment (Life) and Give-a-Gift: Alay sa Batang Pinoy of GMA Foundation.

Cut Unlimited Inc., which organizes Noel Bazaars, urges participants to book early before booth spaces run out. Call Cherry, Grace or Cecille at 687-2955/0654/7523, fax 687-0604 or e-mail mayose.cut@pacific.net.ph.

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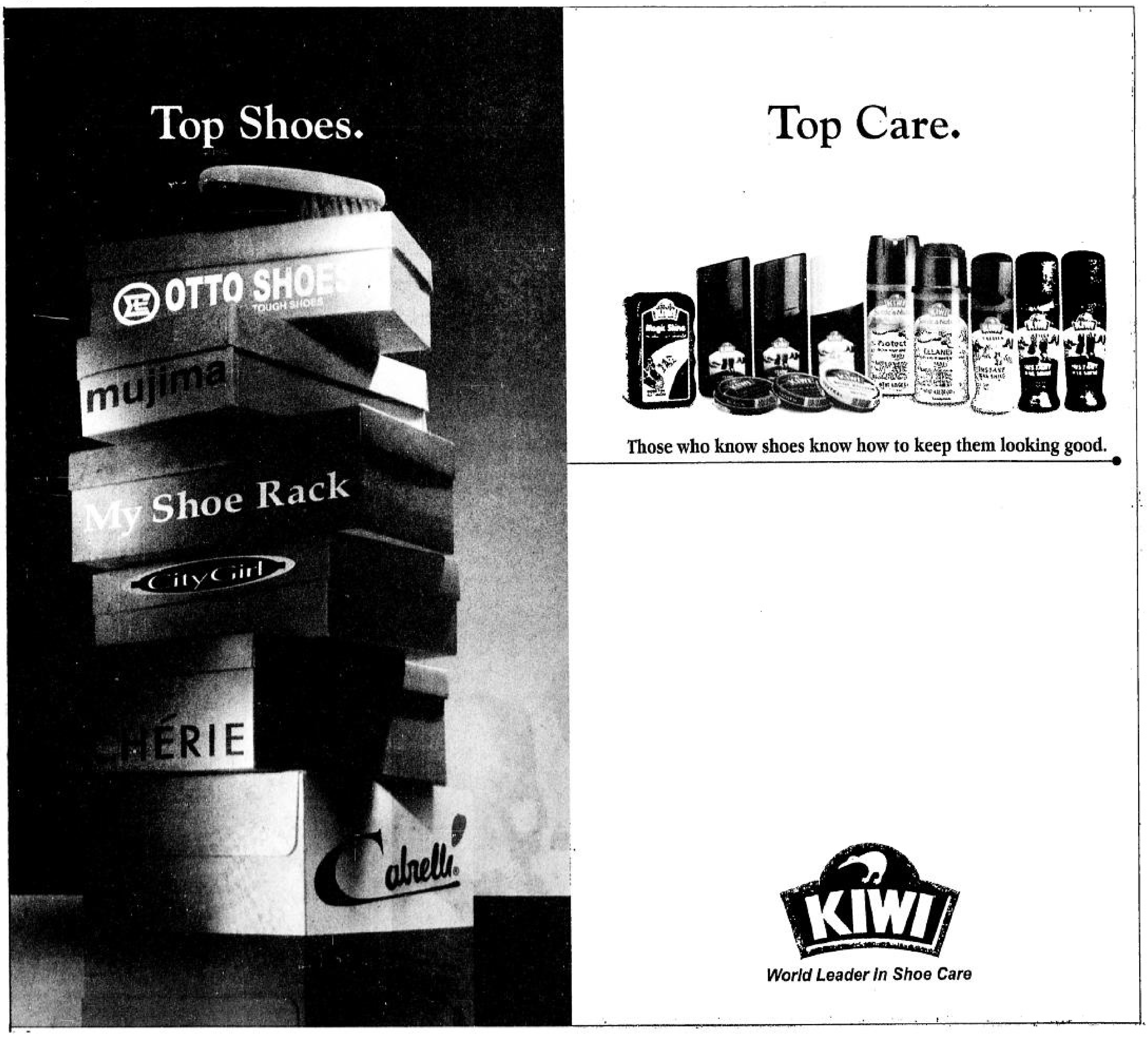
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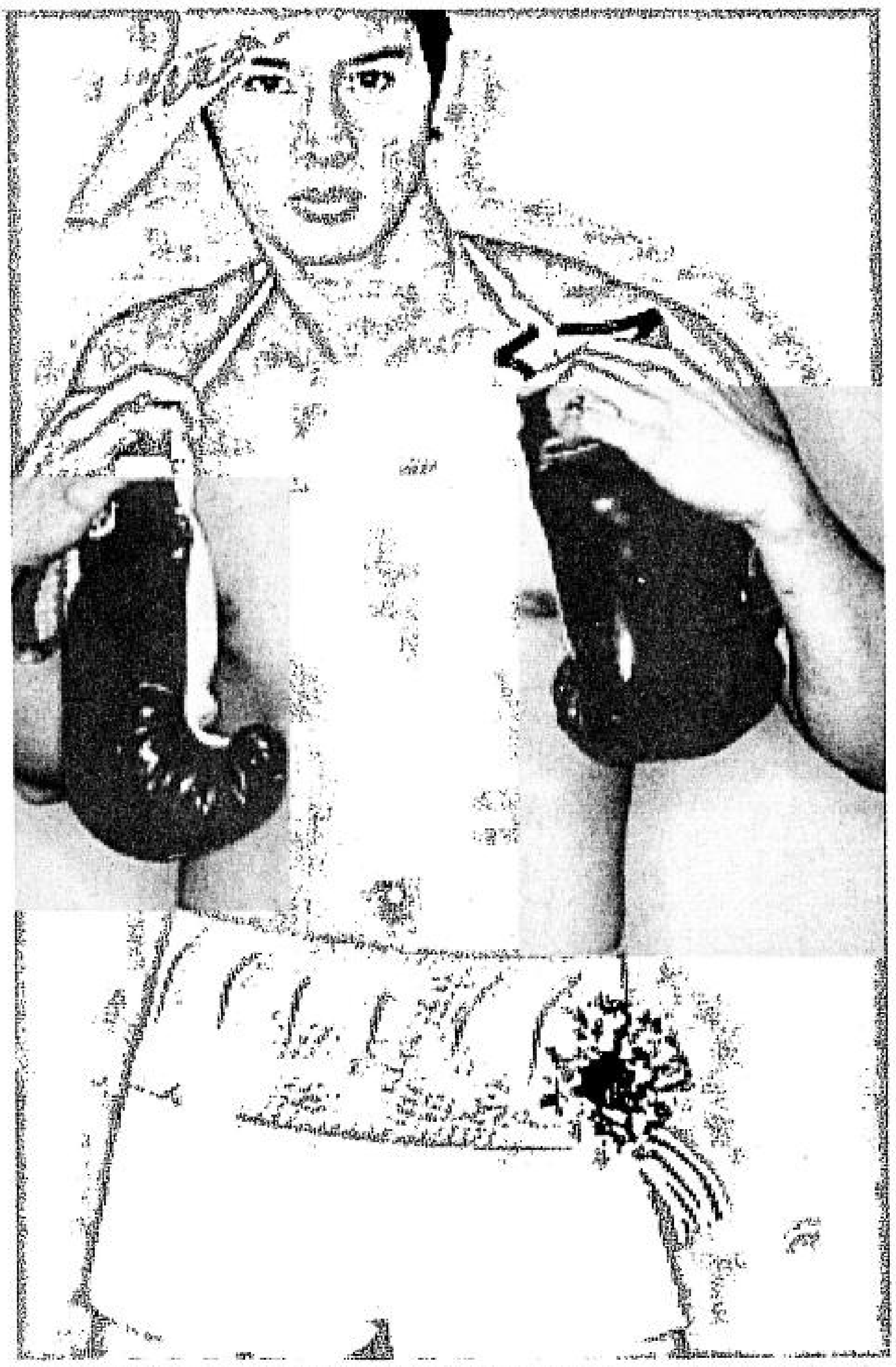
Get ready for a 'One Night' stand

Bench sets a new bar for skimpy sensuality in a show that may turn the Big Dome into a fantasy-filled hot house of hedonism

COME TO THE CABARET. Hat by Paolo Raymundo, tie by Michele Sison, denim bag by Zara, white Benetton jacket, all stylist's own

BRIEFS AND BOXERS BY BENCH
MODELS: GLEN MAGNIFICO, ANTHONY SICAR, EDWARD BUNAGAN, CARLO ADORADOR, EDWARD MENDEZ, DOUGLAS ROBINSON
MAKEUP BY BENCH FIX SALON


SLUGGER. Cap by Paolo Raymundo, boxing bloves from Bangkok, sash by Rajo Laurel, denim flower corsage from Bangkok, all stylist's own

From page E1

ging the bodies of every able-bodied Pinoy to whom sexiness is synonymous to comfort and style in one delicious package. Whether hipster, low-cut, high-cut, g-string, T-back, T-front—name it, Bench will showcase it in all shapes, colors and sizes—for one night only.

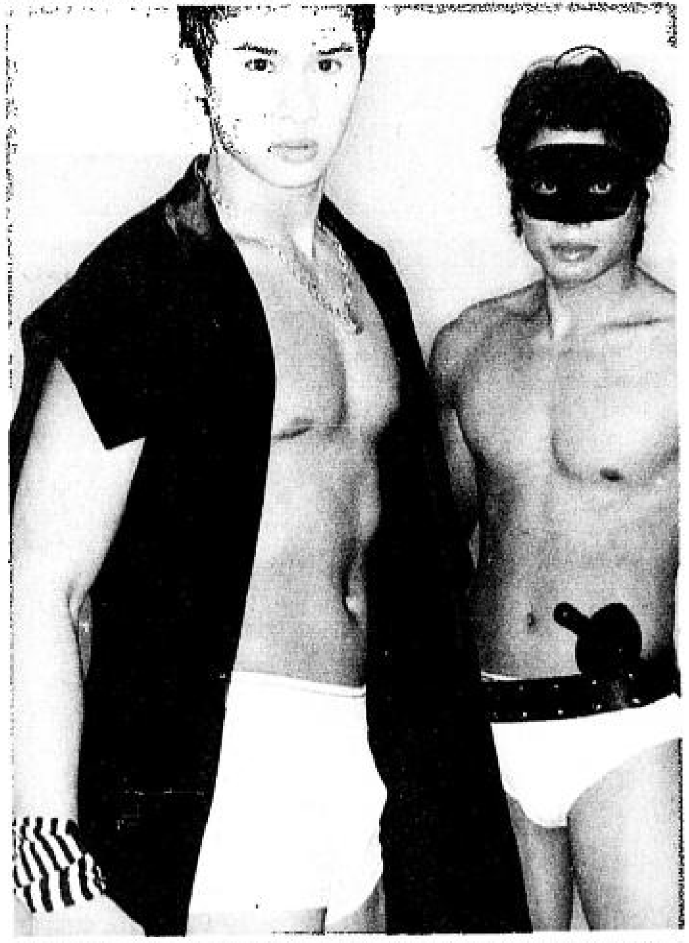
With an impressive roster of 150 male and female models, the Bench body feat has become the Victoria's Secret live catalog of the local modeling scene in terms of size and prestige. As in, "You just have to be part of it," as one put it. For months now, male models have been seriously pumping at the gym, waiting for that all-important cattle call by director Ariel Lozada for the event's go-see. From there it's make or break.

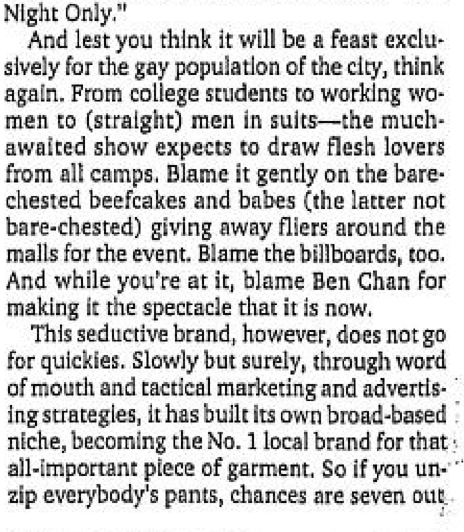
Sexy seduction

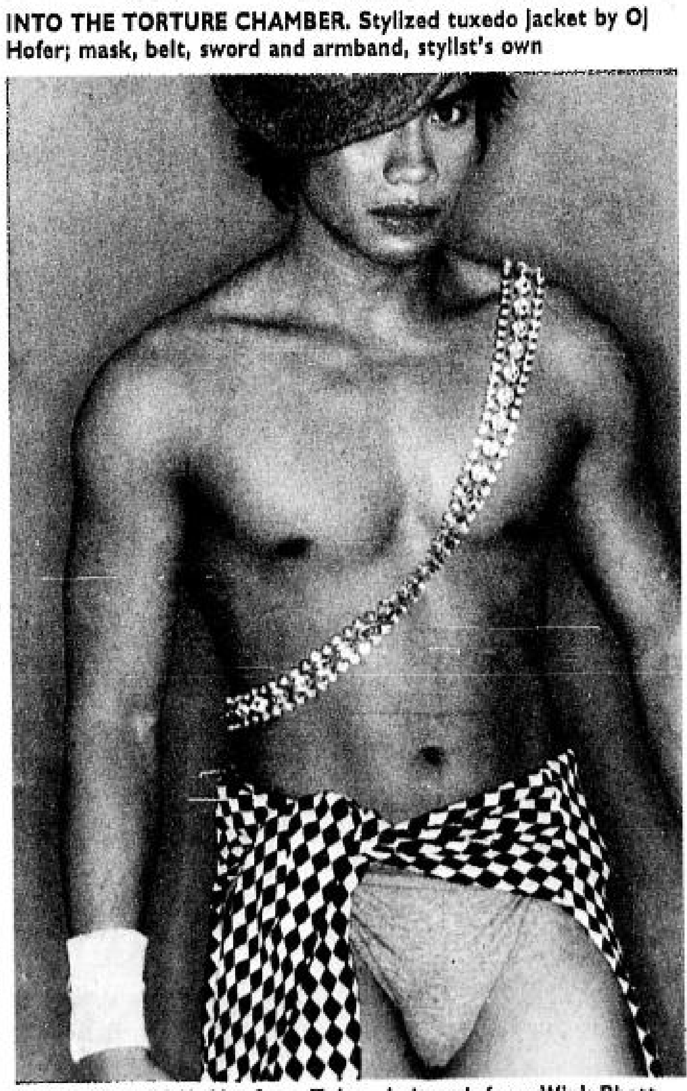
As soon as the final roster gets chosen, more serious pumping (at the gym) ensues as the models get ready for the big day. The media get all excited, and so does everyone, as images of Bench's poster boys and gals seduce the city, with vivid visuals that aim to ignite the passion of an Edsa passerby, or a newspaper reader for that matter. Imagine Marc Nelson stripping his briefs at your doorstep, Diether Ocampo topless on your couch, or Assunta inviting you to her room, for "One Night Only."

And lest you think it will be a feast exclusively for the gay population of the city, think again. From college students to working women to (straight) men in suits—the much-awaited show expects to draw flesh lovers from all camps. Blame it gently on the bare-chested beefcakes and babes (the latter not bare-chested) giving away fliers around the malls for the event. Blame the billboards, too. And while you're at it, blame Ben Chan for making it the spectacle that it is now.

This seductive brand, however, does not go for quickies. Slowly but surely, through word of mouth and tactical marketing and advertising strategies, it has built its own broad-based niche, becoming the No. 1 local brand for that all-important piece of garment. So if you unzip everybody's pants, chances are seven out


INTO THE TORTURE CHAMBER. Stylized tuxedo jacket by OJ Hofer; mask, belt, sword and armband, stylist's own


ARE YOU READY FOR THIS? Neck sash by Rajo Laurel, belt by Dries Van Noten, cap and biker's jacket by H&M, stylist's own


HOUNDSTOOTH. Hat from Tokyo, belt sash from Wink Rhett Eala, checkered shirt from *ukay-ukay* and armband from Fila, stylist's own

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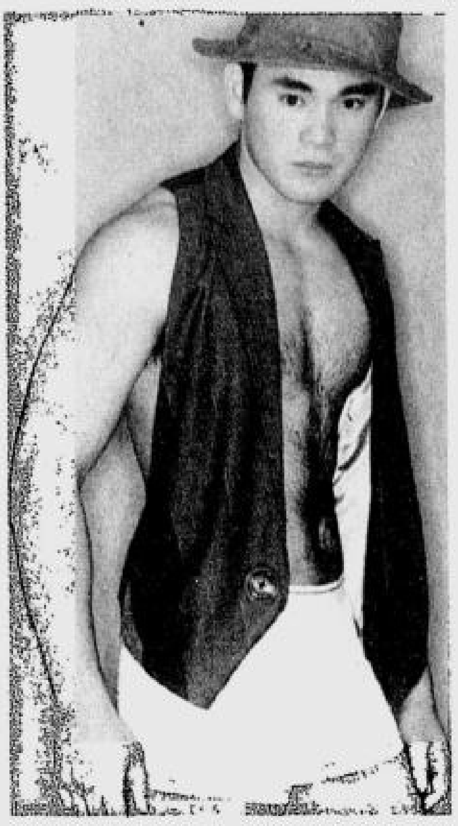


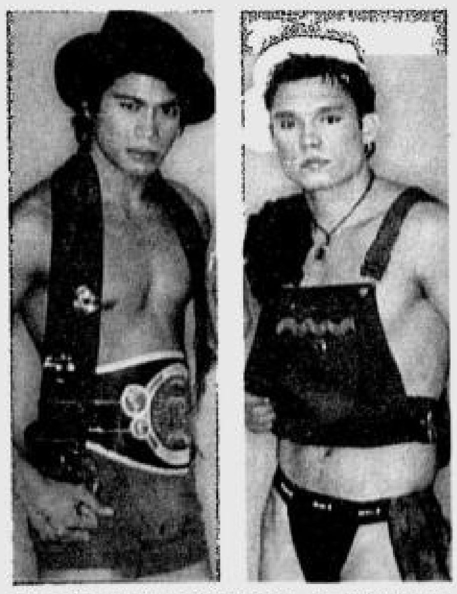
FUN IN THE WORKPLACE. Leather hat and Paolo Raymundo vest, stylist's own

of 10 are wearing their B's.

For this shoot, we put together an interesting mix of essentials for the hip urban dweller—jackets, shirts, bags, hats, ties, belts, bands and briefs. Through it all, there's only one important lesson: It's really what's inside that counts.

TICKLE MY FEATHER. Hat from Australia, shades from Paul Smith, boa feather from New Orleans, stylist's own

SEEING RED. Shirt from Hong Kong, water gun from Divisoria, stylist's own



RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW. Sash by Anna Sui, belt from Joyce Hong Kong, overalls by Paolo Raymundo, corsage by Ignacio Loyola and cap by RC of Saga, all stylist's own

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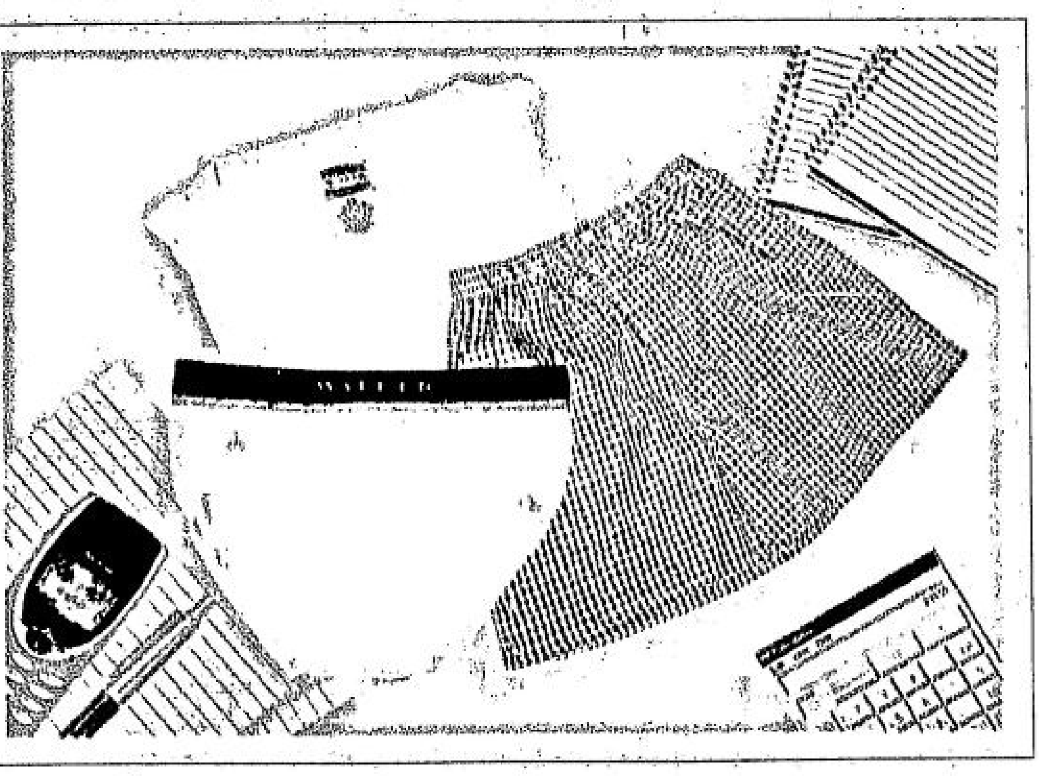
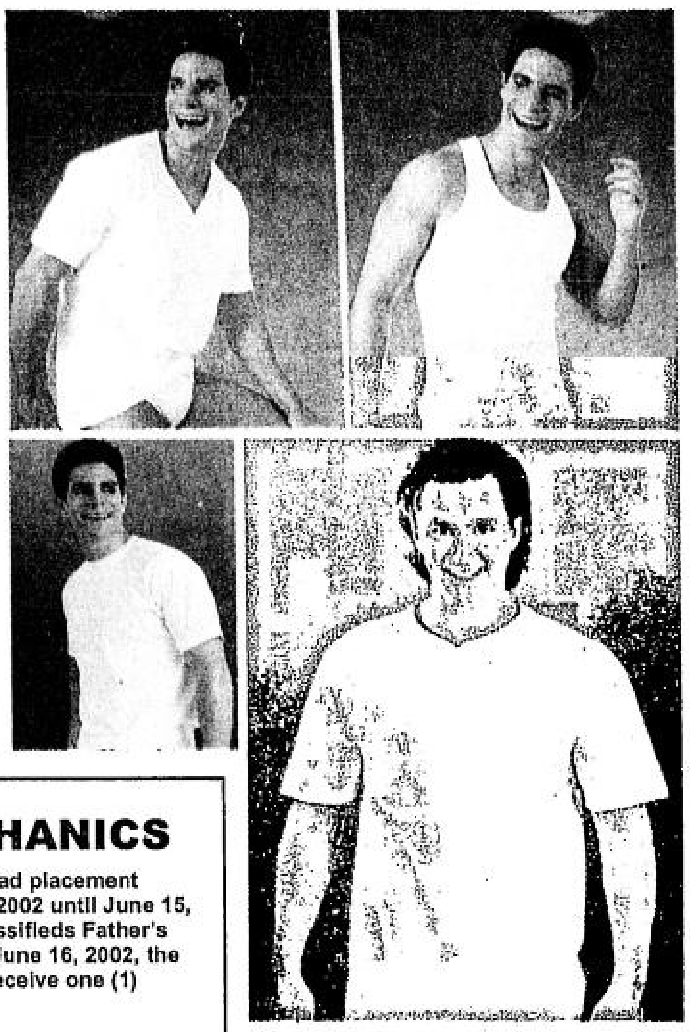


BACK-TO-SCHOOL VALUE PACK
Walker Briefs and Undershirts launches its latest promo called Walker's Back-to-School Value Pack. This is a three-in-one value pack composed of a brief, an undershirt and boxer shorts, which costs P299.50. Available at SM, Robinsons, Isetann, Landmark, Sta. Lucia and other leading department stores nationwide.



BEAT THE HEAT
Hanes Classics has been heralded as the undergarment of choice among men the world over. Made of 100-percent cotton, Hanes Classic round-neck T-shirts, *sandos* and briefs allow for maximum breathing space even in the warmest of climes. T-shirts and *sandos* are also double-stitched with taped neckband for added durability. Available at Sara Lee Direct branches and Sara Lee dealers nationwide.

Is beauty pageant an oxymoron?

From page E8

God and will do anything for God—even wear a bathing suit and parade before thousands of people in the pageant venue or in front of TV sets.

Some are preoccupied with peace on earth, national solidarity and martyrdom for the rebirth of our beloved Philippines. I am in awe—absolute awe—of the selflessness of these young ladies who want to dedicate their lives to helping the less fortunate and to make their Inang Bayan proud.

Someone with such long legs and ripe bosoms expressing concern for the plight of the poor and wanting to improve Philippine tourism made me feel like I was being apathetic and irresponsible.

But the organizers should probably push the questions a bit further to truly test the dedication of these *makabayan* and *maka*-Lord girls. It would be interesting to know what they think of the shrinking imports and its implications for the production of export goods. Or what the significance is of the Balikatan 2002 to national sovereignty. But those are questions Katrina Legarda or Ces Drilon would ask their guests, not beauty pageant hosts or even the distinguished members of the panel of judges.

Each time a contestant is asked a question, I go into near-cardiac arrest. In a panic that the poor innocent thing with too much make-up and really awful dress would make a bigger fool of herself, I hide my face behind my pillow and pray the Act of Contrition very quickly as some kind of moral support. "*Diyos ko, Diyos ko, Diyos ko po*," I mutter. "*Huwag po… Huwag poool*"

By the end of the evening, the smartest ones get to wear the crowns. Nothing can match innate poise and intelligence. The winners line up as in a firing squad with more rhinestones on their newly crowned heads and enough flowers to fill up a pergola. They deliver more smiles and wave, teary-eyed, at the multitude who they will now represent in some international beauty shebang.

I marvel at the women for their endurance and courage to get to where they are. The crowns tend to tilt a bit to the side, badly pinned on their heads by their predecessors who have delivered their goodbye speeches and are now ready to enter Nirvana. The new beauty queens will do anything to keep those rhinestone concoctions in place considering what they went through to reach this milestone in their young lives.

Long live the queens… well, until next year anyway.

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PROMO MECHANICS

1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting June 1, 2002 until June 15, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Father's Day Special Section on June 16, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., affix signature and your father's name, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of June 20, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 5 fathers / winners will each win gift certificates from Rustan's worth PHP 1,000.00.
4. The raffle draw will be held on June 24, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.
6. GCs are not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their GCs at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
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10. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
11. Promo is valid only in GMA. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER MessageBoard
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO.1035 SERIES OF 2002.

Italian paper work

By Kitty Go
Contributor

WHAT'S IN STORE: Giulio Giannini remains family-run by fourth- and fifth-generation descendants.

THE ITALIAN government is known for red tape. However, if it is using paper as beautiful as that in Florence, its bureaucracy can totally be forgiven. If there is a place for a paper lover to go nuts, it has to be Florence. Better than the food, more superior than its men and surpassing the shopping, there is nothing like Florentine paper.

I am ashamed to admit that I buy more paper in Italy than clothes and shoes. Many travelers say that clothes and leather goods shopping in Florence is the best. However, I have come back with nothing but paper. Nowhere in the world is the art of paper-making so glorified as in Florence. It is the home of marbleized paper, a technique originally from Japan and Iran but perfected by the Florentines. This type of paper has a flow of colors from the monochromatic to a rainbow of hues in one sheet. It is still done by hand today where artisans of great precision and technique form colors and patterns using a comb on the best paper that absorbs the glorious patterns. No two are alike although paper companies take pains in repeating patterns.

Family-run

The use of marbleized paper was started by Giulio Giannini when leather started to get too expensive for bookbinding. Giulio Giannini & Figlio on the Piazza de Pitti (across from the Pitti Palace, the former main residence of the powerful Medicis) has been in business since 1856 and it still makes paper in the shop's upper floor. The enterprise is still family-run with Giulio's great-grandchildren Guido and Gabriele running the place together with their niece Maria. The family also owns R. Vannucchi on Via Condotta near the Uffizi Palace (yet another former Medici residence).

The stores have similar products—leather-bound notebooks and albums, marbleized wrapping paper, cards, notebooks, writing paper, pens, inks and seals, leather-bound books by Dante and Elizabeth Barrett-Browning. What I found here that no other paper store had was a marbleized case for Post-It notes and marbleized paper clips in shapes of animals and flowers.

The ubiquitous Il Papiro was founded also by a member of the Giannini family. It has good, consistent quality at prices competitive with Giulio Giannini. Florentine paper does not come cheap. Leather-bound notebooks could run anywhere from 40 to over 200 euros/US dollars but individual sheets can be had for a few euros. Il Papiro probably has one of the most diverse and widely distributed products from erasers and pens to marbleized albums. However, the respected master remains Giulio Giannini.

Signum has more accessible prices with beautifully crafted cards for as little as 2 euros to luxuriously textured Carte de Gioco playing cards featuring Jacopo Callot reproduction drawings from 1600. This is a place for everything from souvenir postcards to cookbooks to gold-embossed place cards. They have old maps, quills, posters and paper of all makes and prices from the expensive but plain multi-use (for art and writing) carte de Amalfi and Fabriano to colorfully marbleized writing materials and ornate Bertini (multicolored Florentine paisleys and florals) paper.

Email the author at styledowager@hotmail.com

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BY FAR the most popular Florentine paper brand, Il Papiro is found in key cities in Italy and even in the United States.

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Is beauty pageant an oxymoron?

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

IN THE PHILIPPINES, heat and humidity are not the only indications that it is summer.

One can tell that the dry season is upon us by watching television. From noontime to prime time, the boob tube has girls wiggling their fannies and flaunting their breasts in the skimpiest of bikinis. Men are displaying their buffed-up, maxi-toned muscles (not to mention the family treasures, barely covered by their Speedos).

The privileged few scramble for their favorite getaway—the centrally air-conditioned buying Meccas of Hong Kong, the oven-hot Chatuchak Market in Bangkok or, of late, the exotic nooks and crannies of India.

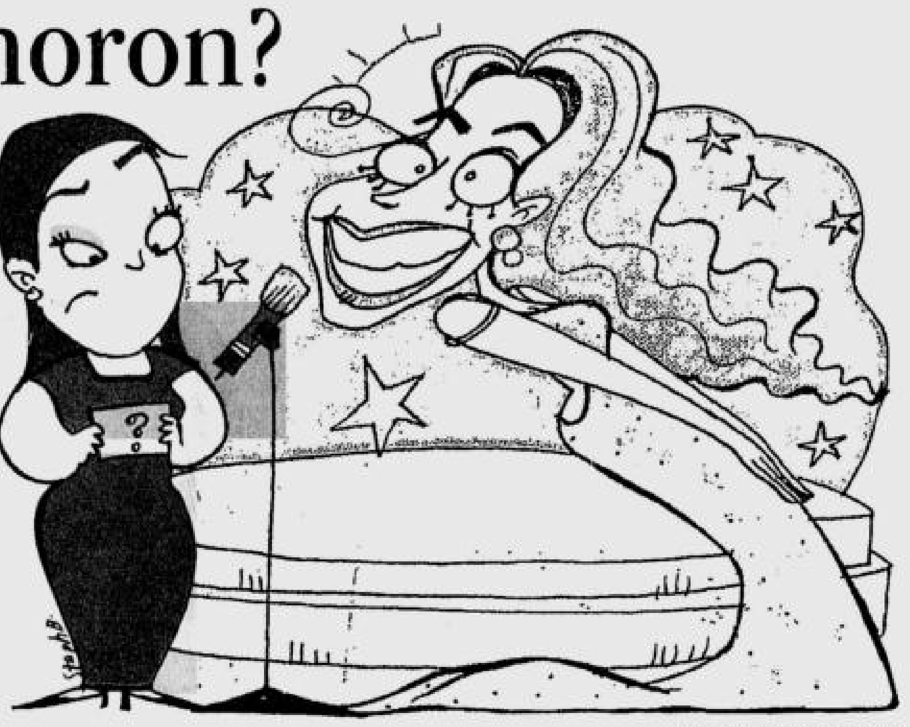
Some friends have discovered the joys of surfing and are in San Juan, La Union, patiently waiting for a substantial wave they can ride and hoping to get a "Baywatch"-quality tan.

Many contestants should have just stayed home and concentrated on their final exams

But the real proof that summer is here is the return of the annual beauty contests.

One slow Saturday night, I decided to stay home and avoid the madding crowds. Summer has that sort of effect: it makes you want to loll in bed or putter around the garden, do craft projects and be possessed by the spirit of Martha Stewart. That Saturday night, I opted to turn on my TV set, avoid cable and catch a beauty pageant that promised to choose the gutsy Filipino women who will dare cross the seas to represent our archipelago and "put the Philippines back on the map."

After the first 30 minutes or so, I came to a very disturbing conclusion: My God! These events are absolutely masochistic exercises! It is as if we have not reached our maximum tolerable quota of cheesiness in everyday Pinoy living. We actually come up with annual celebrations that foist tackiness and (as one friend of mine insists) supra-*kabaduyan* with such confidence and... uh, conviction under the banner of national pride.



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

My first look at the contestants this year made me wonder, "Where do they actually come from?" Oh, yes, some looked good, some looked sensuous, some looked like they can make any standard Pinoy *pa*-macho's libido going. But many should have just stayed home and concentrated on their final exams. One or two should have taken a long hard look at themselves in the mirror or redirected all that energy elsewhere... uh, like painting ceramic figurines in a mall?

As each contestant expressed her desire to be useful to humankind and do more charity work than Mother Teresa, I wondered why they had to join a beauty contest to do just that! They could have simply set an appointment with Dinky Soliman (the head of the Department of Social Welfare and Development) and skipped the bathing suit route to find a way to show their love for God and country. *Hindi ba naman?*

A friend of mine called, interrupting my total concentration on the event. When he found out I was watching the pageant, he asked, "*O, maganda ba?*" I answered, "*Ewan ko*. They must be pretty beneath all that makeup. But right now, I just can't tell."

On television, it looked like they used industrial gesso as skin foundation. Their lips were painted with the kind of goo that comes in cans, not in sticks. They were so red they resembled early warning devices. Or maybe the women French-kissed sheets of Japanese paper. Those rehearsed smiles seemingly permanent features of their faces (they must have suffered from cramped cheekbones), there was absolutely no way of telling what they looked like as normal human beings. Then I got it. Remember Jude Law's makeup on Steven Spielberg's "A.I."? Right and perfect: Mechas from "A.I." dreaming to be human.

But nothing prepared me for the long gowns. I am no fashion expert (although constant exposure to the F Channel has somehow given me enough pedestrian knowledge of the spring-summer/fall-winter collections) but I know tacky when I see it. Questions flashing through my mind as I saw the girls trying to embody glamour in gowns that must have been inspired by the colors of Lucban during the Pahiyas festival. They did not only look like walking *kiping*—they were as close to the vision of Pahiyas as someone overdosing on acid would get.

Rhinestones seemed to be an obsession with the designers. Faux rocks glittered on necklines, hemlines, ears, necks, nose, eyeballs, probably even the pancreas. The glass the girls carried could make chandeliers for the ballrooms of six five-star hotels.

It was my turn to call my friend to ask, "Why do they look like that? *Akala ba nila maganda yung ginawa sa kanila?*"

His reply: the girls were either impersonating mirror balls during the heyday of Studio 54 or they were inspired by the much-revered Filipino tradition of the *sagala*. He added, "Remember, there is also the equally popular Santacruzan *ng mga bading*." Now that made everything very clear to me. No wonder they looked like *palaban* transvestites.

What I dread the most in every beauty contest is the question-and-answer portion. Through the years, we have heard memorable responses from beauty queens that have remained in our collective consciousness. How can one forget lines like: "High tide or low tide?" "If they like me, they get me... that's all!" (Translation: "*Kung gusto nila ako, kinukuha nila ako... 'Yon lang!*")? Or: "I would like to thank my mother, my father and my parents..." or "I would like to thank my gown named Renée Salud." And every year in every pageant, there is always one significant moment—one mind-boggling highlight—when a girl will blurt out something so deliciously and sincerely out of sync. At the end of the day—or in this case, the very *looong* night, you couldn't give a damn who gets to wear the crown. You just remember who gave the most grandiloquent stupid answer—while smiling.

I have also wondered why these young women show intense spirituality and nationalism when interviewed by the host or the judges.

A study of these pageants would probably reveal that they consider that most suggestive of intelligence and Christian conscience. The interview portions are reminiscent of film and television awards nights when acceptance speeches sound like statements in prayer meetings with occasional experiences of spiritual ecstasy. Every winner loves God, thanks

IS BEAUTY/ p.E6

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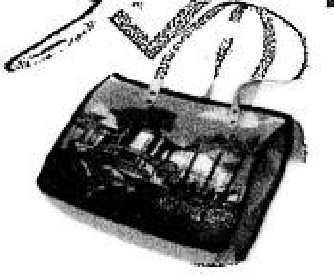

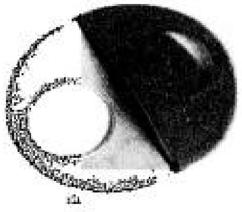

Eye candy bags

Story on page F4

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Story on page F6

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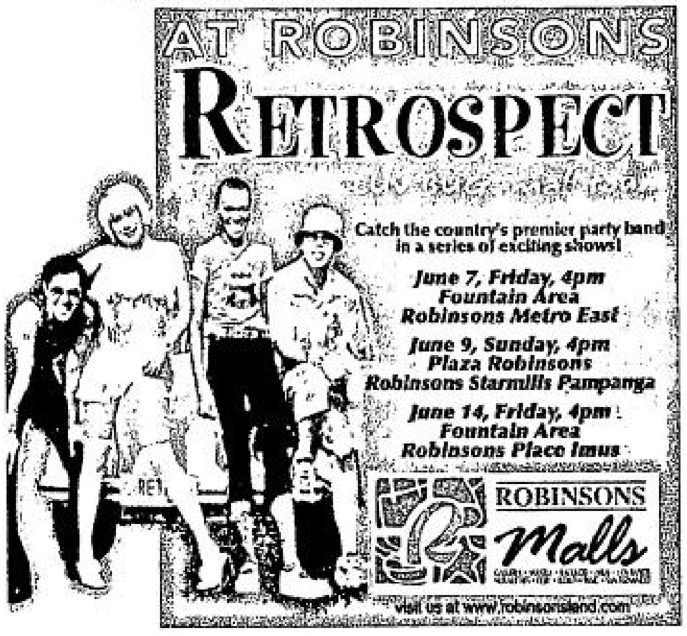
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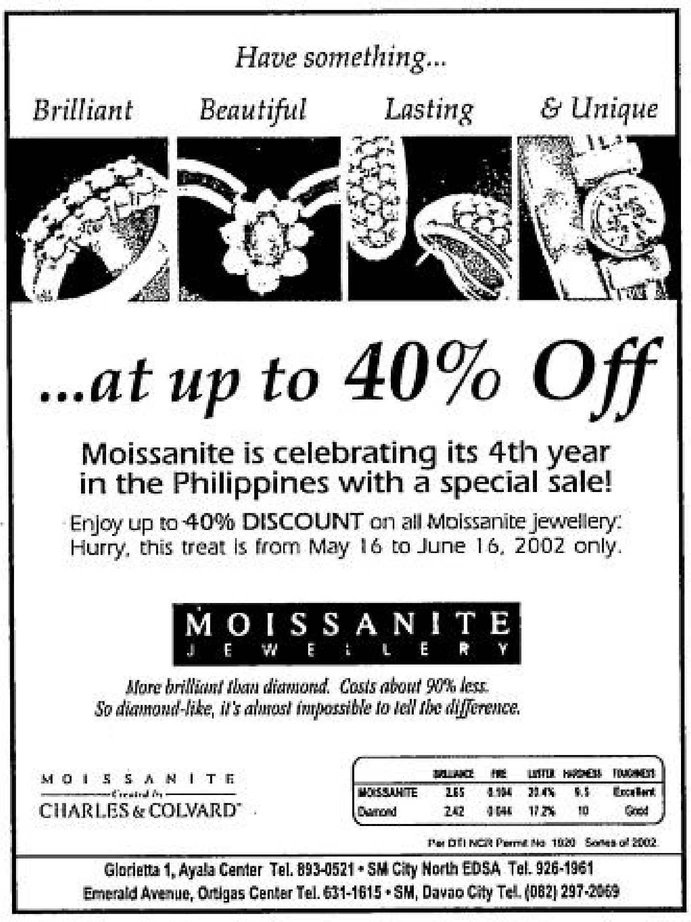
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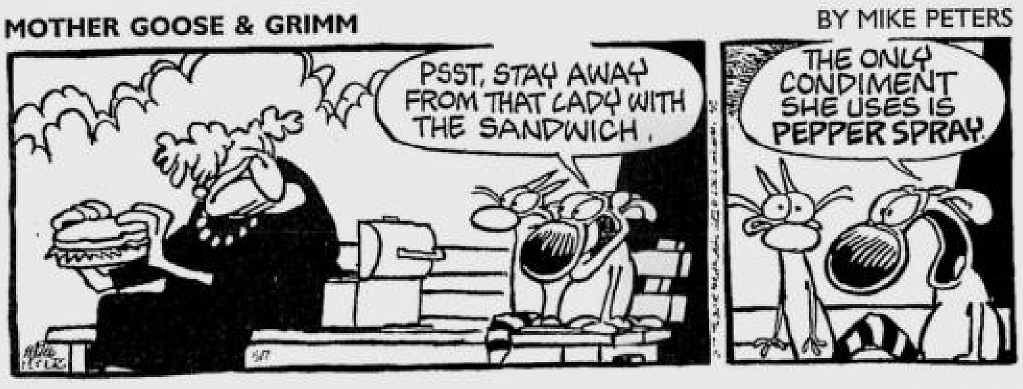
AutoWorld

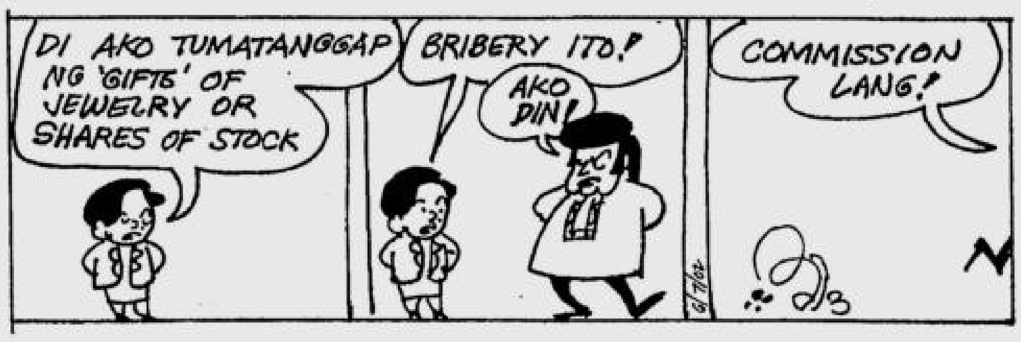
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


PSST, STAY AWAY FROM THAT LADY WITH THE SANDWICH.
THE ONLY CONDIMENT SHE USES IS PEPPER SPRAY.

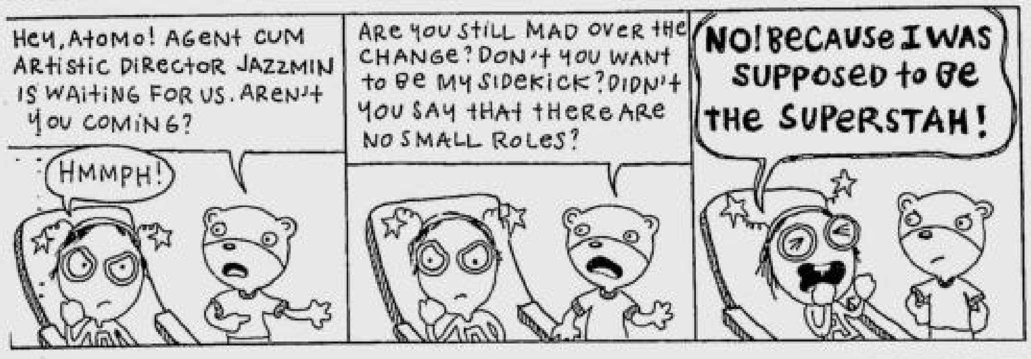
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DI AKO TUMATANGGAP NG 'GIFTS' OF JEWELRY OR SHARES OF STOCK
BRIBERY ITO!
AKO DIN!
COMMISSION LANG!

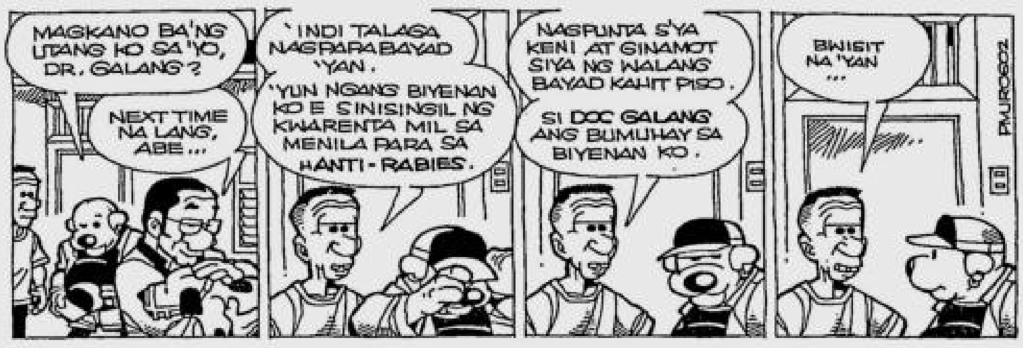
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, ATOMO! AGENT CUM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JAZZMIN IS WAITING FOR US. AREN'T YOU COMING?
HMMPH!
ARE YOU STILL MAD OVER THE CHANGE? DON'T YOU WANT TO BE MY SIDEKICK? DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT THERE ARE NO SMALL ROLES?
NO! BECAUSE I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE SUPERSTAH!

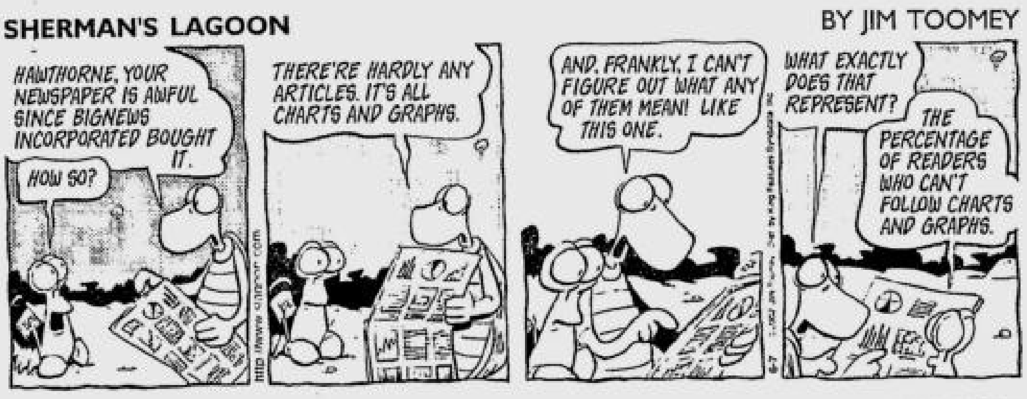
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAGKANO BA'NG UTANG KO SA 'YO, DR. GALANG?
NEXT TIME NA LANG, ABE...
'INDI TALAGA NAGPAPABAYAD 'YAN.
'YUN NGANG BIYENAN KO E SINISINGIL NG KWARENTA MIL SA MENILA PARA SA HANTI-RABIES.
NAGPUNTA S'YA KENI AT GINAMOT SIYA NG WALANG BAYAD KAHIT PISO.
SI DOC GALANG ANG BUMUHAY SA BIYENAN KO.
BWISIT NA 'YAN ...
PMJR0602

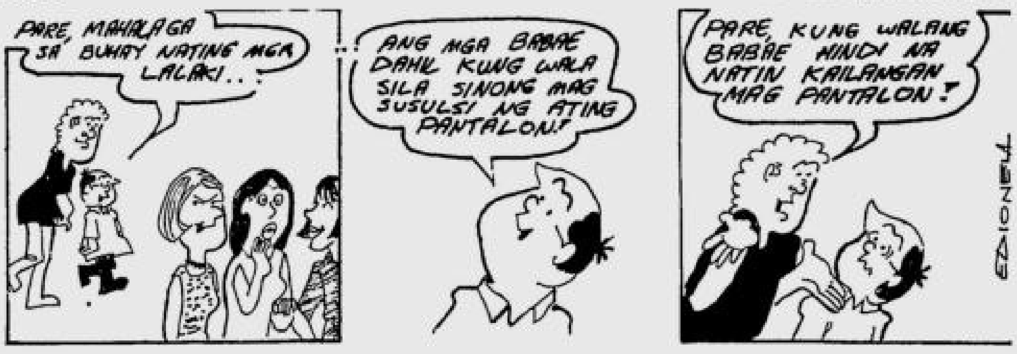
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HAWTHORNE, YOUR NEWSPAPER IS AWFUL SINCE BIGNEWS INCORPORATED BOUGHT IT.
HOW SO?
THERE'RE HARDLY ANY ARTICLES. IT'S ALL CHARTS AND GRAPHS.
AND, FRANKLY, I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT ANY OF THEM MEAN! LIKE THIS ONE.
WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT REPRESENT?
THE PERCENTAGE OF READERS WHO CAN'T FOLLOW CHARTS AND GRAPHS.

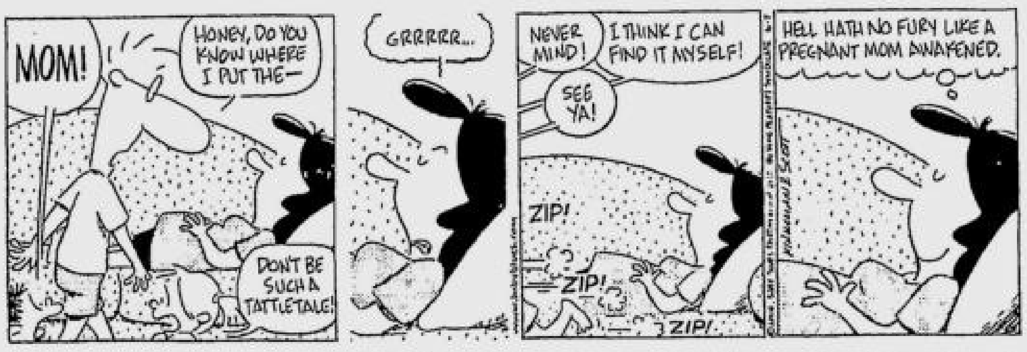
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PARE, MAHALAGA SA BUHAY NATING MGA LALAKI..
ANG MGA BABAE DAHIL KUNG WALA SILA SINONG MAG SUSULSI NG ATING PANTALON!
PARE, KUNG WALANG BABAE HINDI NA NATIN KAILANGAN MAG PANTALON!
EDIONELA

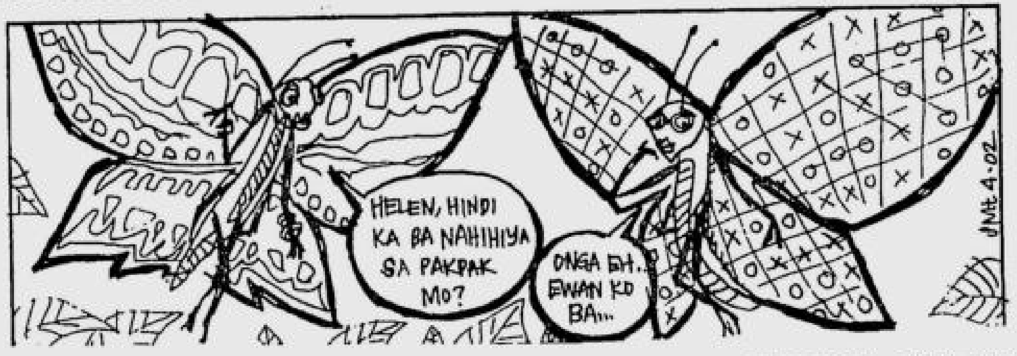
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM!
HONEY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE I PUT THE—
DON'T BE SUCH A TATTLETALE!
GRRRRR...
NEVER MIND!
I THINK I CAN FIND IT MYSELF!
SEE YA!
ZIP!
ZIP!
ZIP!
HELL HATH NO FURY LIKE A PREGNANT MOM AWAKENED.

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HELEN, HINDI KA BA NAHIHIYA SA PAKPAK MO?
ONGA EH.. EWAN KO BA...

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Tandy, Prince, Tom Jones, Rocky Graziano

Happy Birthday: You will actively seek ways to make more money this year. You will be ambitious and authoritative when dealing with professional issues. This is a great year to draw up and sign contracts. You will have an interest in things political and will want to contribute in order to make the changes. Your numbers are 5, 13, 18, 23, 27, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let your emotions take over when it comes to professional situations. Remain calm and keep a watchful eye. Your contributions in the past and what you have to offer will put you in a safe position.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be up and down today. Try to relax a bit and don't let everything going on around you get you down. You may not be that fond of change but this time it will be necessary.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may be intrigued by something today but don't end up in a compromising position. If someone is trying to lead you in another direction, say no.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make things happen if you take part in worthwhile causes. Your compassion for others should help you get to the bottom of any situation. The kind of help you should offer is caring advice, not money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may feel the need to put a little adventure into your life but be careful. You are likely to attract the wrong kind of attention when making choices today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will shine if you get into a discussion with someone you find challenging. Your ability to put a deal together will surprise others. Book a trip that will fulfill your wildest dreams.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a close look at any legal documentation that could turn out to be important later. Stop waffling about the decisions that are pressing. Someone you are counting on to help you will probably disappoint you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take a second look at your relationships with others. You may need to make a few adjustments in your life. Don't believe everything that others say especially if emotions are running high.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your high energy must be put to good use today. If you pitch in and help someone else you will gain the support you need to make the necessary changes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stop being so money-oriented and make plans to do something that will be out of the ordinary and lots of fun. You owe it to yourself to take time out to enjoy friends and family today.

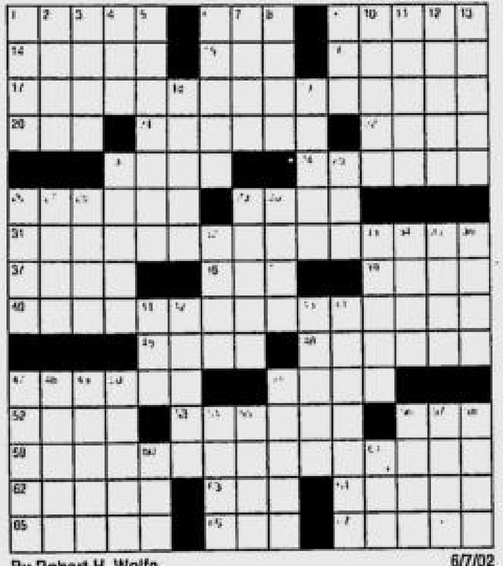
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A change is greatly needed at home. Let your creative imagination flow. Develop your innovative ideas, but don't overspend in the process.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your empathetic nature should lead you to a serious cause today. You will have plenty to offer any group you join but don't be too quick to offer your cash.

Birthday Baby: You will use your skills to help family members. You will like the comforts of home and family. You will tend to be cautious and reserved when it comes to your life goals. You will be a little shy, and not inclined to enjoy large crowds.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

6/7/02

ACROSS
1 Music rights grp.
6 Pursue tenaciously
9 Trim meat
14 Old hat
15 Nabokov book
16 Solidarity
17 Iron
20 Is down with
21 Mexican holiday
22 European eagle
23 Arithmetic problems
24 Edge
26 Chronic respiratory disease
29 Channel marker
31 Platinum
37 Abba of Israel
38 One in Madrid
39 Siva's consort
40 Krypton
45 Electronics giant
46 Beleaguer
47 Kenyan nationalist of the '50s
51 Lads
52 Arm bone
53 Meet the challenge
56 Permit to
59 Mercury
62 Squeeze
63 Mine output
64 Strength
65 Throat prob.
66 Clavell novel, "King __"
67 Vaporized water

DOWN
1 Author of "The Nazarene"
2 Portico in ancient Greece
3 Crow calls
4 Priest's robe
5 Fragrance
6 Hamlet's kin
7 Vegas numbers
8 Way of walking
9 Tunneled
10 Computer key
11 Norwegian inlet
12 Make up for
13 "Saint Maybe" novelist
18 Point toward
19 Wealthy one
23 Glow
25 Popeye's Olive
26 Park and Lex.
27 "The Thief of Baghdad" star
28 Snare
29 Pretty to Burns
30 E.T.s' vehicles
32 Chinese currency
33 Bradley and Epps
34 "Peter Pan" dog
35 Coloring agents
36 Diner sign
41 Where to find J'burg
42 Grieve
43 Pio
44 Staff suspensions
47 Inflammatory contagious disease
48 Warning signal
49 Indy winner Bobby
50 Billiards shot
51 Soft French cap
54 Frankenstein's assistant
55 Blood fluids
56 Harp ancestor
57 Kett of old comics
58 Those people
60 Kreskin's forte?
61 Witty remark

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

Z	I	N	G	■	S	P	R	Y	■	R	A	B	I	D
O	D	I	N	■	A	L	O	E	■	E	V	A	D	E
O	L	L	A	■	H	E	A	T	■	C	O	B	O	L
M	E	E	T	S	A	B	R	I	C	K	W	A	L	L
■	■	■	■	O	R	I	■	■	[illegible]	O	S	■	■	■
P	A	Y	O	L	A	■	S	K	I	N	■	A	L	A
E	L	U	D	E	■	S	W	I	M	■	E	G	A	D
C	O	M	E	S	T	O	A	D	E	A	D	E	N	D
O	H	M	S	■	R	U	N	S	■	M	I	N	C	E
S	A	Y	■	P	A	R	K	■	B	I	T	T	E	R
■	■	■	A	L	I	■	■	D	I	N	■	■	■	■
G	E	T	S	I	N	T	O	A	C	O	R	N	E	R
O	R	A	T	E	■	O	N	C	E	■	Y	O	Y	O
B	I	K	E	R	■	A	T	O	P	■	A	S	E	A
S	E	E	R	S	■	C	O	N	S	■	N	E	R	D

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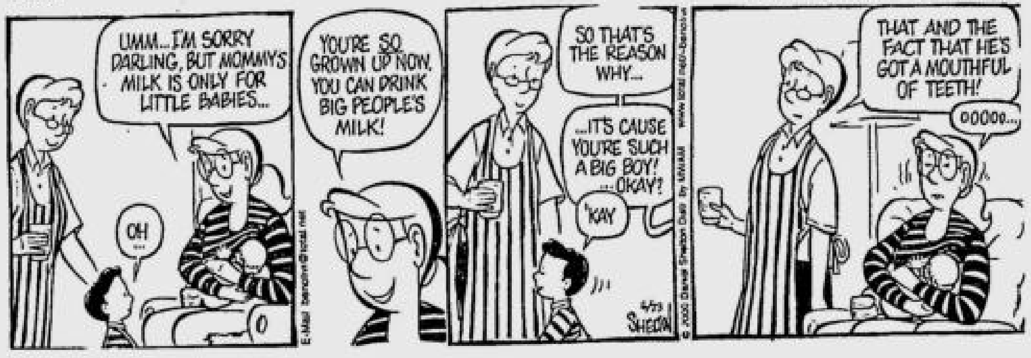
6/7/02

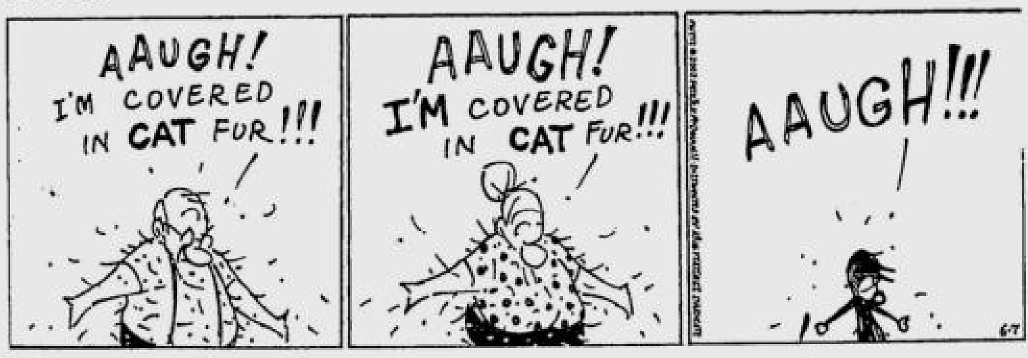
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


UMM...I'M SORRY DARLING, BUT MOMMY'S MILK IS ONLY FOR LITTLE BABIES...
OH ...
YOU'RE SO GROWN UP NOW. YOU CAN DRINK BIG PEOPLE'S MILK!
SO THAT'S THE REASON WHY...
...IT'S CAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A BIG BOY! ...OKAY?
'KAY
THAT AND THE FACT THAT HE'S GOT A MOUTHFUL OF TEETH!
OOOOO...

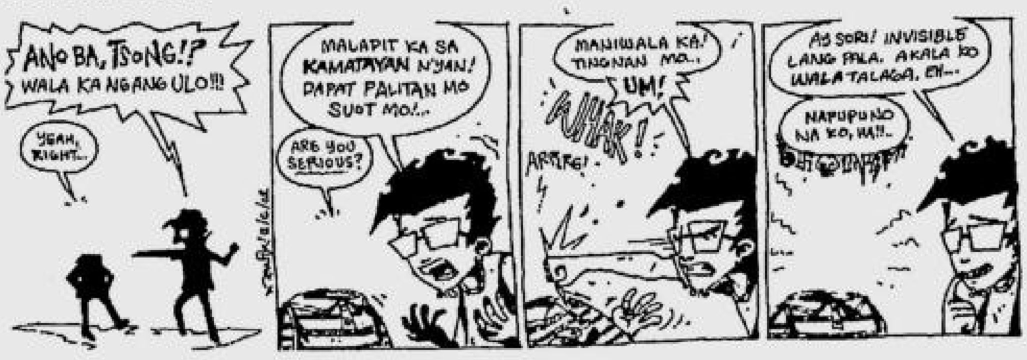
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AAUGH! I'M COVERED IN CAT FUR!!!
AAUGH! I'M COVERED IN CAT FUR!!!
AAUGH!!!

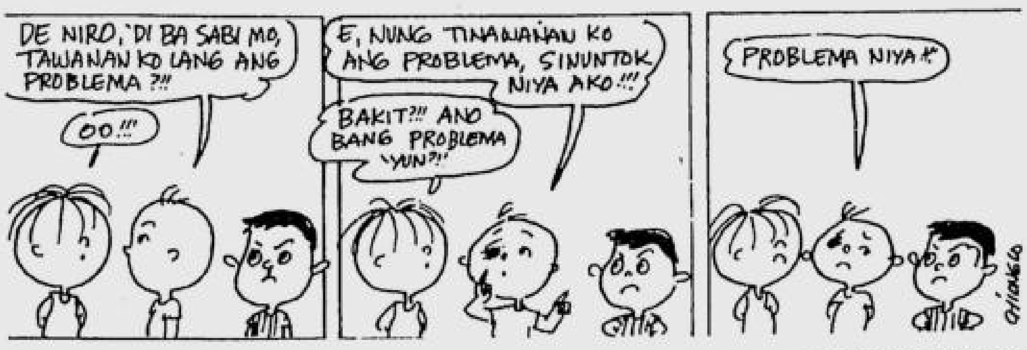
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANO BA, TSONG!? WALA KA NGANG ULO!!!
YEAH, RIGHT...
MALAPIT KA SA KAMATAYAN N'YAN! DAPAT PALITAN MO SUOT MO!..
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
MANIWALA KA! TINGNAN MO...
UM!
WHAK!
ARRRG!
AS SORI! INVISIBLE LANG PALA. AKALA KO WALA TALAGA. EH...
NAPUPUNO NA KO, HA!!..

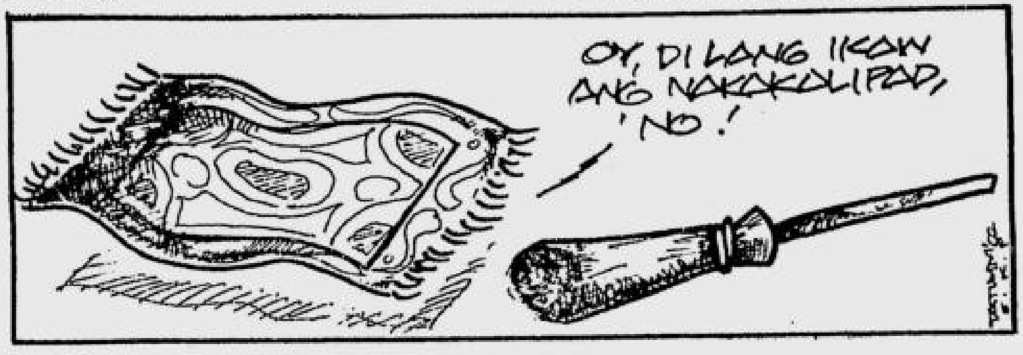
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, 'DI BA SABI MO, TAWANAN KO LANG ANG PROBLEMA ?!!
OO!!
E, NUNG TINAWANAN KO ANG PROBLEMA, SINUNTOK NIYA AKO!!!
BAKIT?!! ANO BANG PROBLEMA 'YUN?!
PROBLEMA NIYA!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, DI LANG IKAW ANG NAKAKALIPAD, 'NO!

Jewelry, clothes and all that jazz

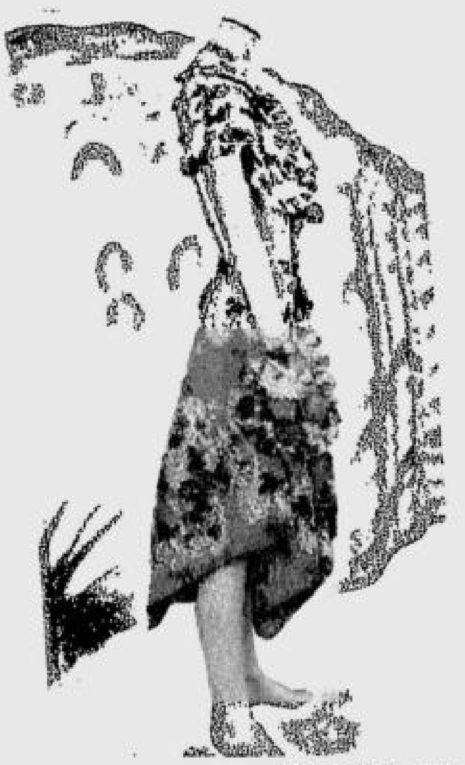
TO CELEBRATE the French Spring in Manila 2002, Jewelmer, a French-Filipino company that has been one of the world's leading producers of South Sea pearls, together with the French embassy in Manila, will hold "The Ultimate Orient, Jewelmer 2002."

A jazz ensemble and modern ballet dancers from the renowned Ballet Philippines will highlight the distinct fashion collection by three of the best young Filipino designers interpreting Jewelmer's pearl jewelry collections—Ignacio Loyola, Dennis Lustico and Jojie Lloren.

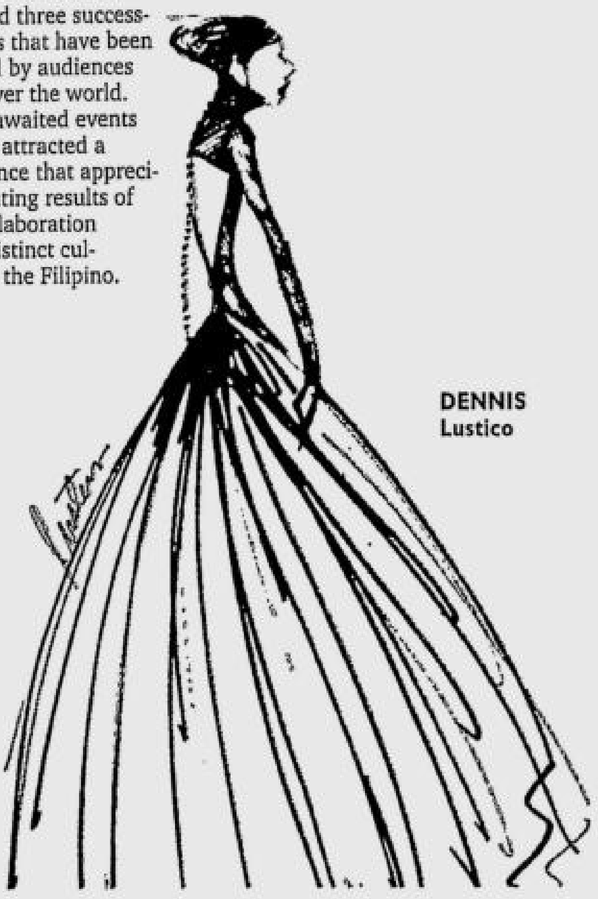
The event, to be held June 12, 6:30 p.m., at the Glorietta Activity Center, is co-sponsored by New World Renaissance Hotel and Dish.

Since the spring of 2000, Jewelmer has produced three successful shows that have been witnessed by audiences from all over the world.

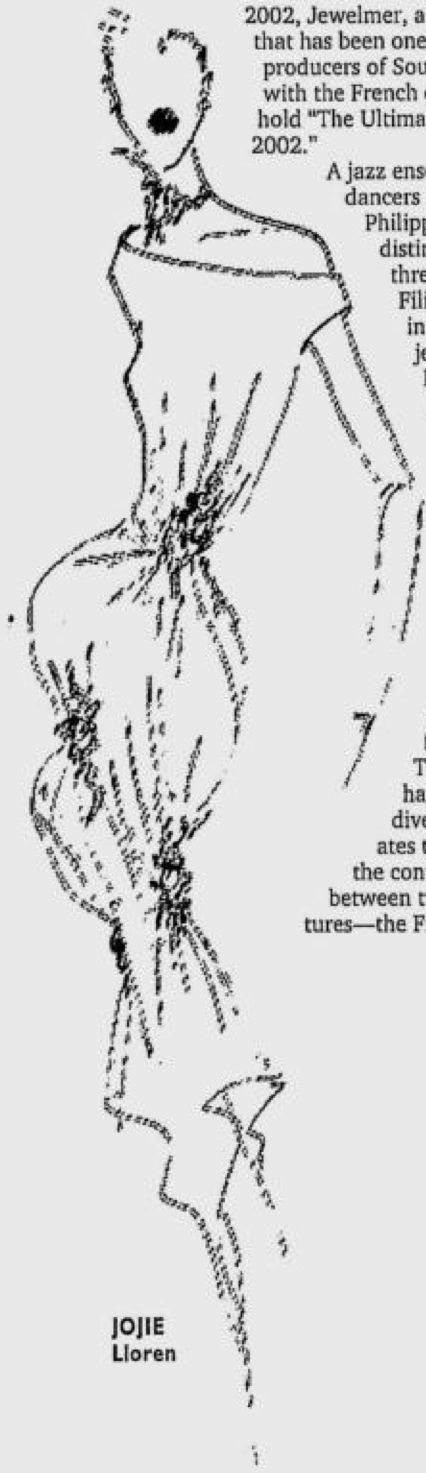
The much-awaited events have always attracted a diverse audience that appreciates the fascinating results of the continued collaboration between two very distinct cultures—the French and the Filipino.



IGNACIO Loyola



DENNIS Lustico



JOJIE Lloren

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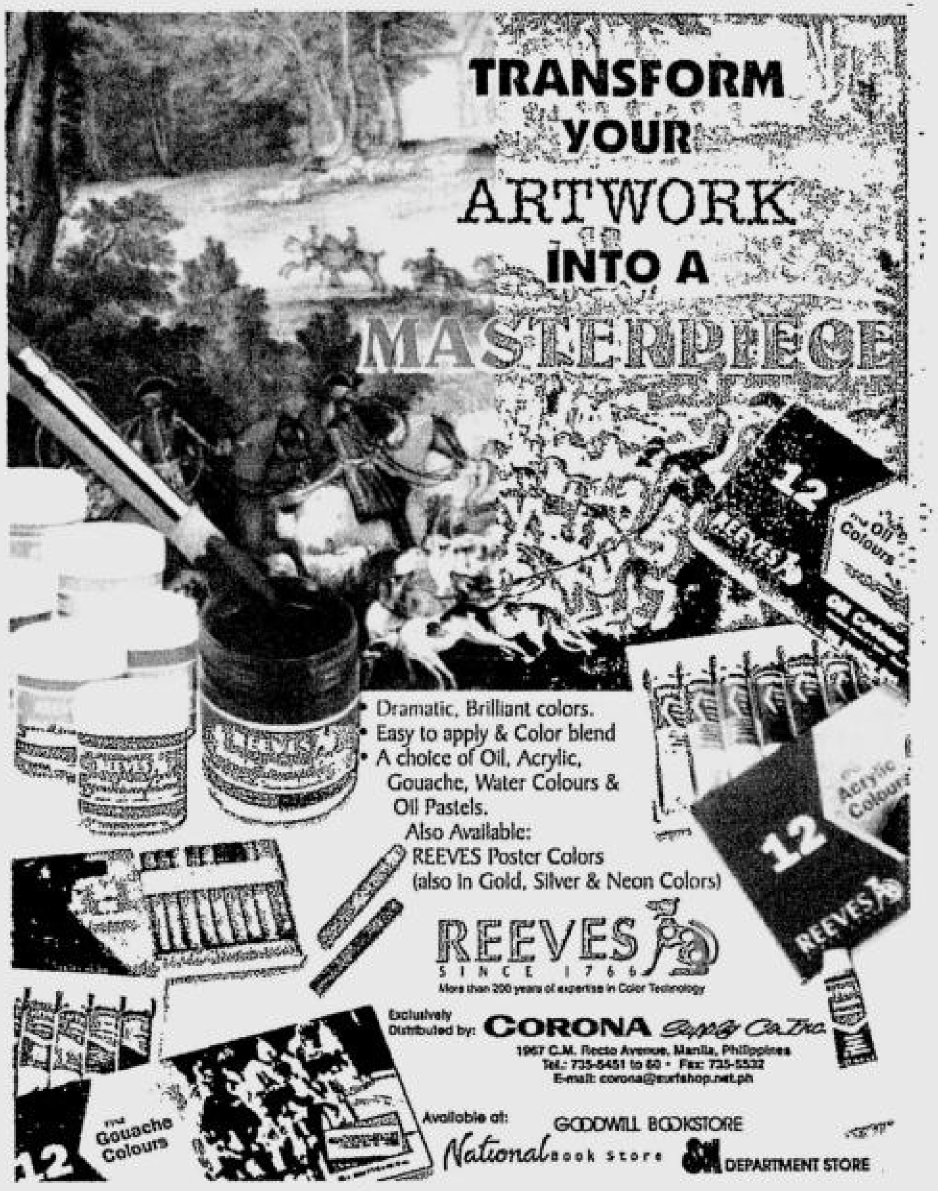
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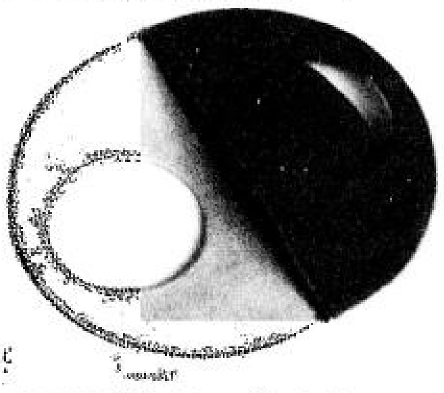


LEATHER "Flying Saucer" bag (yellow on one side, blue on the other), from U at Rustans, P699.

Eye candy *bags*

By Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor

THESE days bags can maximize one's style preference through eye-catching details. As we experience dramatic changes in weather and temperature, our patience may wear out. In times like these, keep traditional bags in the closet and display the unique printed ones instead.

Detail can mean a different kind of handle or strap, an odd shape, a multicolored cross-stitched style, or a bag that uses packaging of a used product. Accessorize depending on your whims.

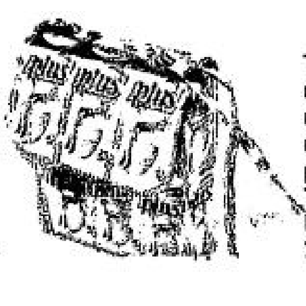
Fancy labels and terrific knock-offs have come and gone. It's time to be more adventurous and pick something that will define your fashion statement.

E-mail the author at unit36D@vasia.com

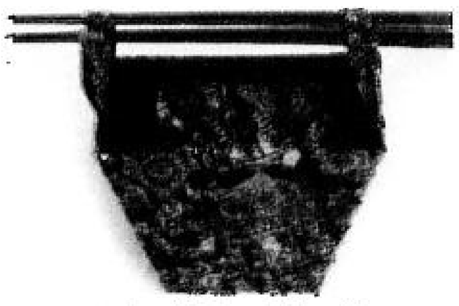
PREZZO cross-stitch pattern bag with Hollywood scene, from Don't Miss at Hip, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell, P1295

MULTICOLOR bar-code striped bag, by Tats at Red Lane, Glorietta 2, P299.

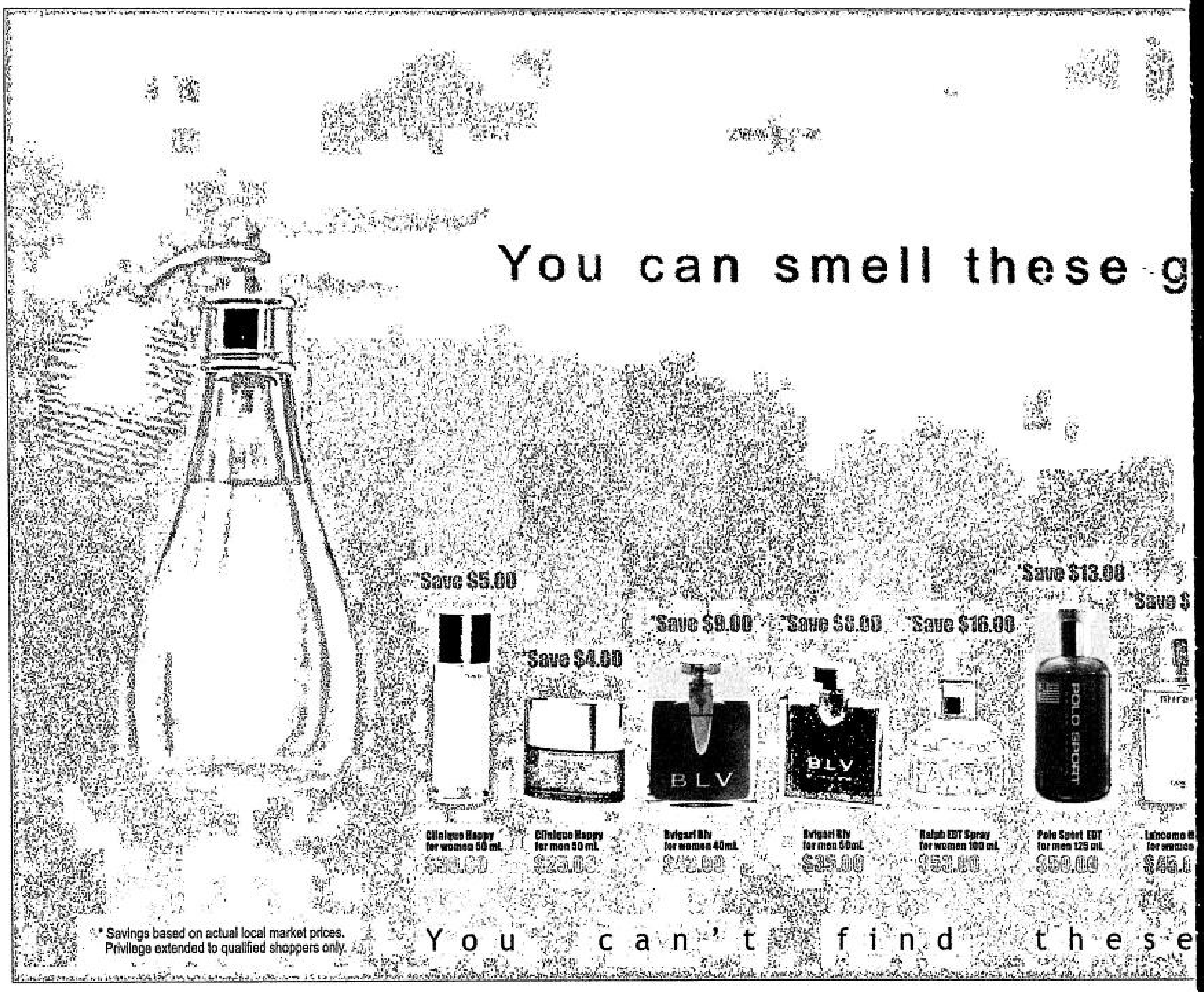
BLUE bag with Japanese cartoons, by Tonj! at Club Fun, Glorietta 2, P369.



TALL messenger bag made from mango juice packs, by Tonj! at Club Fun, Glorietta 2, P199.



PAISLEY-printed "Take-out" bag with chopstick handles by Christina Tuason, P500.



You can smell these g

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Clinique Happy for men 50 mL
$25.00

*Save $9.00
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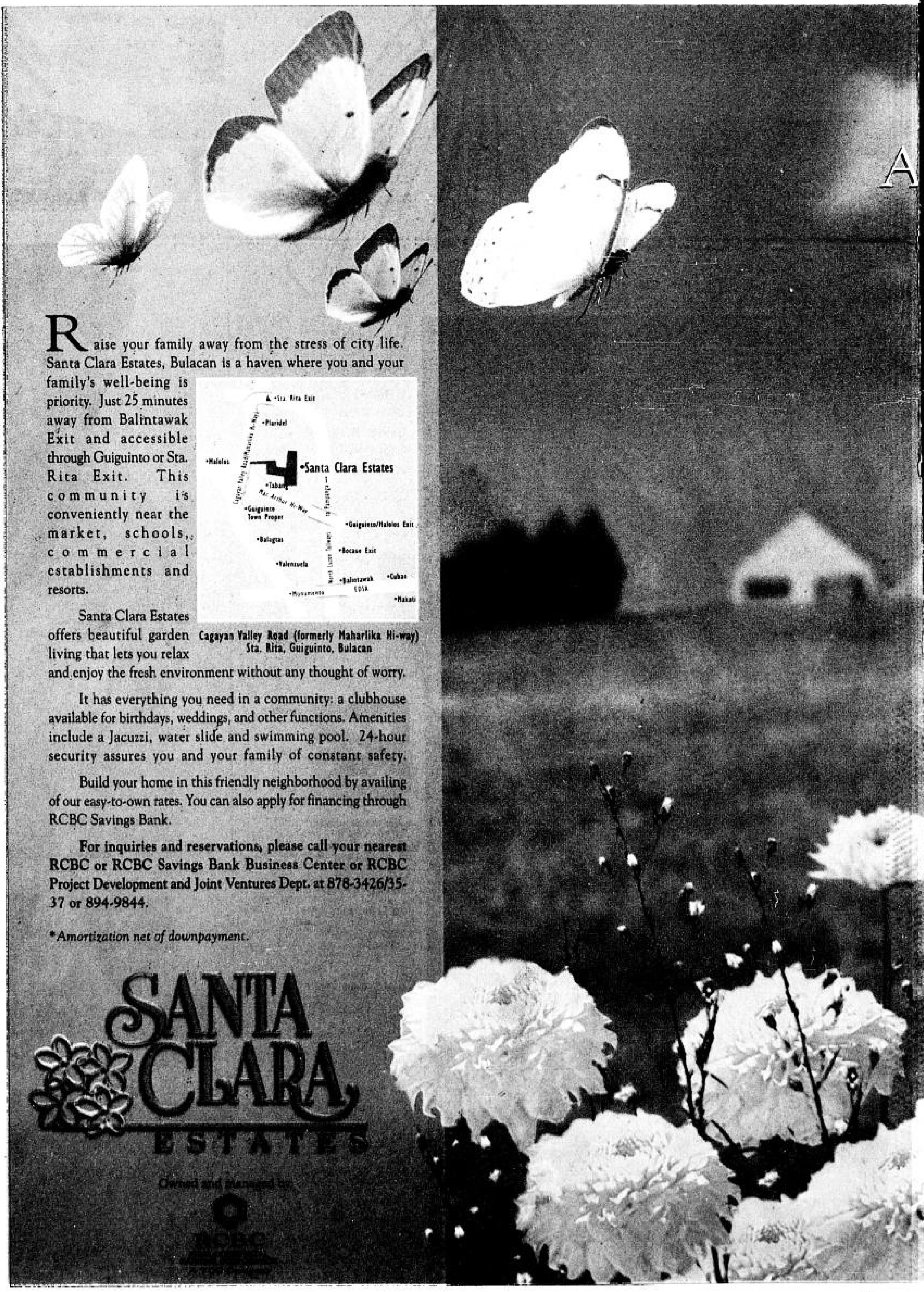
Ralph EDT Spray for women 100 mL
$53.00

*Save $13.00
Polo Sport EDT for men 125 mL
$50.00

*Save $
Lancome for women
$45.

* Savings based on actual local market prices.
Privilege extended to qualified shoppers only.

You can't find these



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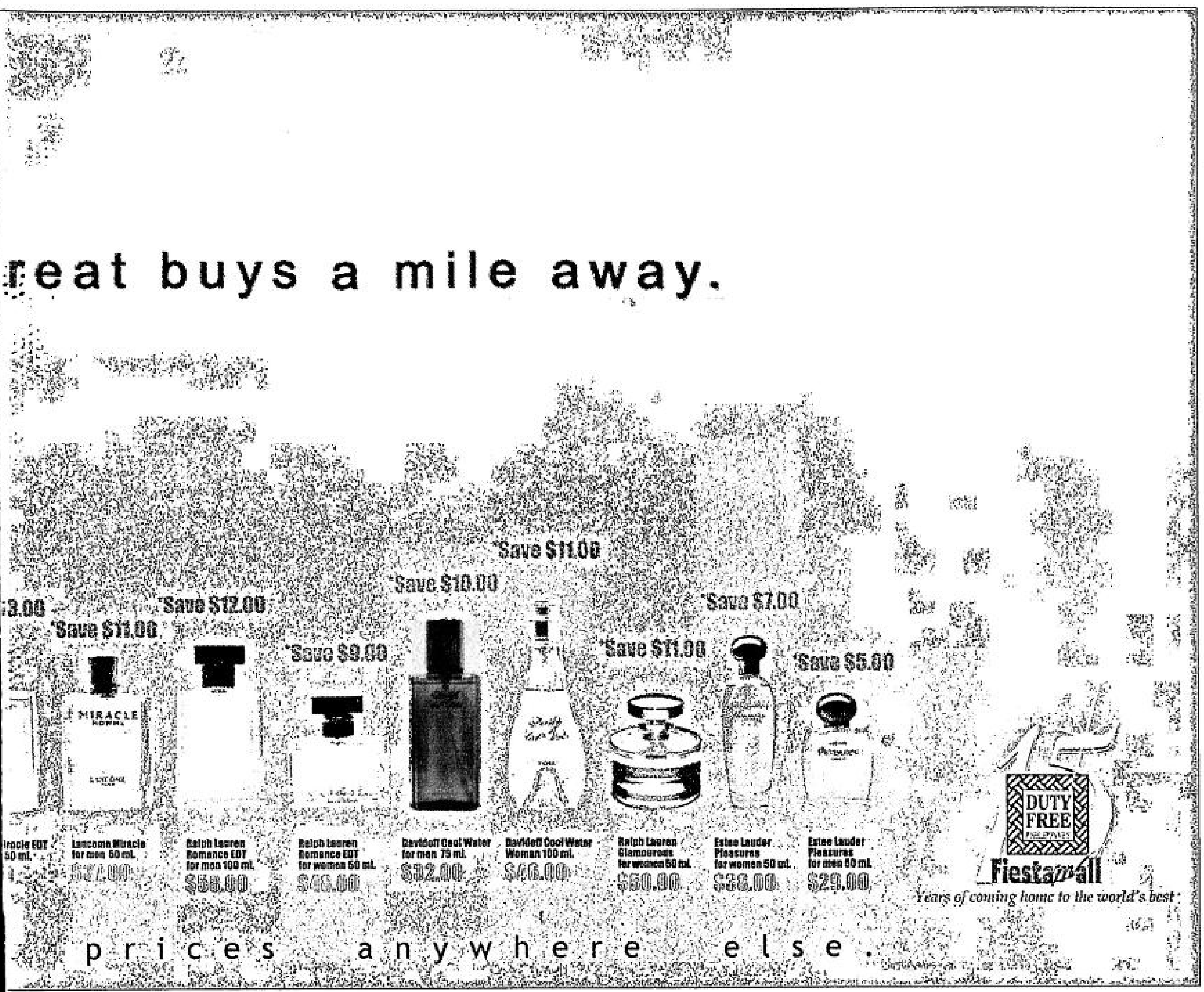
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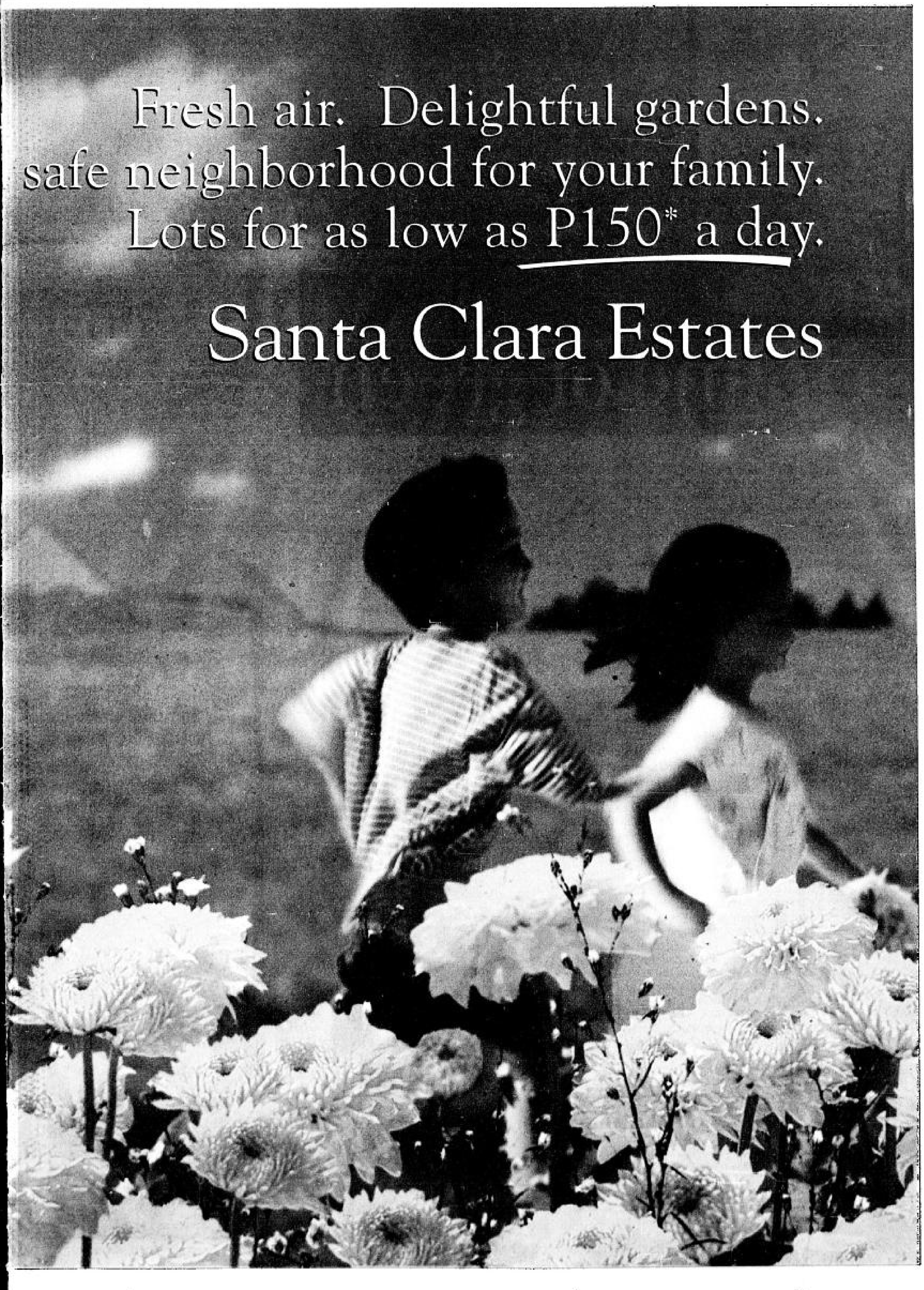
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Cancer Institute harnesses healing power of nature

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

NO ORGANIZATION is more aware of the healing power of nature than the Cancer Institute Foundation, a support arm of the Cancer Institute of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH). Holding office in the three-story CI building in the PGH complex, the foundation has set for itself the task of maintaining the institute's center garden or atrium and all available greening space within and without the building. There is even one being set up right on the third floor, which also houses the auditorium.

To carry out this task, the CI Garden Club was created under the chairmanship of Dr. Cecilia Ladines Llave, gynecologist. Its members include other doctors in the CI, former patients and concerned individuals, most of them volunteers.

Dr. Llave makes room in her busy schedule to see to the development of the gardens and their necessary financing. As anyone involved in a non-profit organization knows, this is no easy job. But her group's vision is clear and it keeps them all going—with enthusiasm and dedication.

She calls the project "healing gardens," she says, because they not only enhance the appreciation of plants and the environment, but also help in the cure and care of patients struggling with their painful disease. The nearness of nature, especially when integrated with modern health care facilities, helps the patients cope better.

Important to a patient

Long involved with cancer patients, Dr. Llave and her colleagues know how important it is for a patient's physical, moral and spiritual upliftment to have well-ordered, beautiful outdoor surroundings where they can enjoy plants and flowers, meditate and pray or just relax.

Literally at the center of this garden is the atrium, a pocket-sized area by most standards (800 sq. m.) which is visible from the balconies on all floors. "There is much to be done here," says Dr. Llave, although the initial markers are already in place—plants under trees, along pathways and borders and even playground equipment to entice children.

The garden in front of the CI building (facing the Supreme Court on Padre Faura, Manila) is already thriving. An age-old acacia holds sway here, and under it grow a number of leafy plants and flowers—aglaonema, dieffenbachia, gumamela, mayana, forget-me-not, false bird of paradise, even peanuts for ground cover, and others.

As Dr. Llave and club members Tony and Tita Perez describe their plans, one gets a clear picture of the end-result—a grassy, tree-lined bower with flowers and foliage lending color and coolness to the area. There will be a fountain and hopefully, sweet-scented flowers in some corner. There will also be a pool filled with fish. Birds will find sanctuary there and fill the place with birdsong.

Obviously, Garden Club members have an Eden in mind, and they intend to recreate it in the other garden spaces as well. The members want to do so much, and one can't help but feel their zeal as they talk.

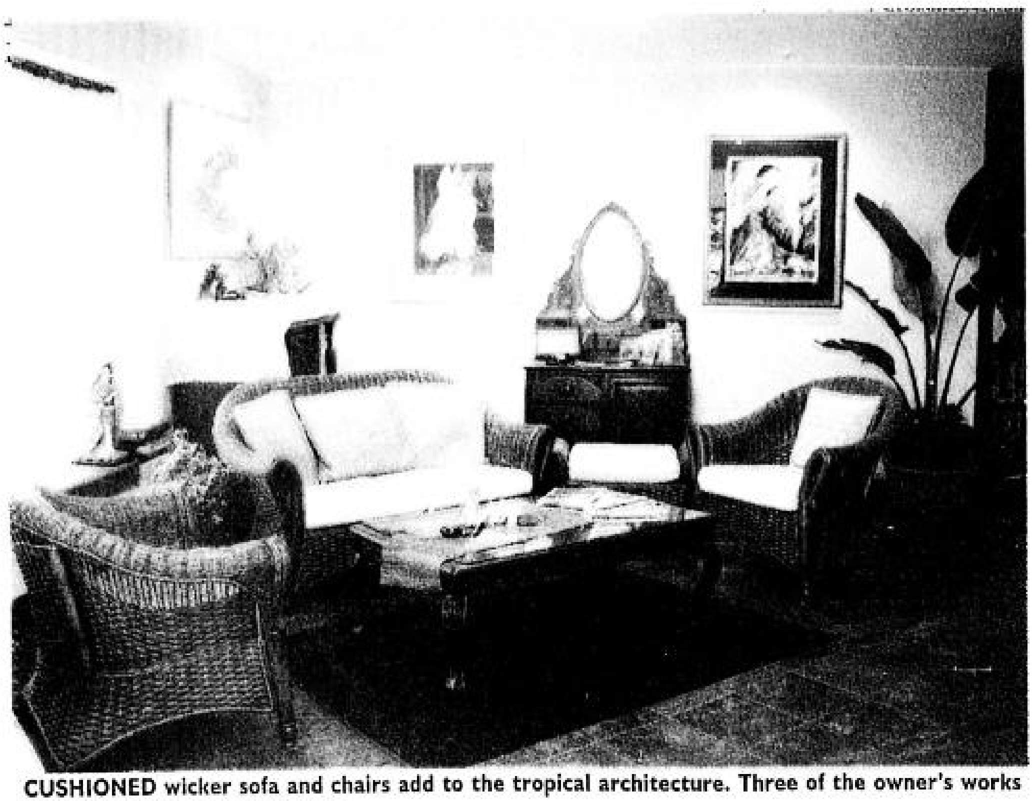
But the CI, its foundation and Garden Club, like the PGH itself, is government-run, mandated to serve the country's sick, most of all those in the low-income brackets, and give them quality care. It therefore needs all the help it can get from all sectors, from volunteers to generous supporters. It is fortunate that some people have already come forward. There are the Perezes who share the produce and resources of their farm in Lipa for garden beautification.

There is Kara Magsanoc-Alikpapala who went through the travails of being a patient and overcame it. Now, with some friends, she helps in designing the physical form of the gardens.

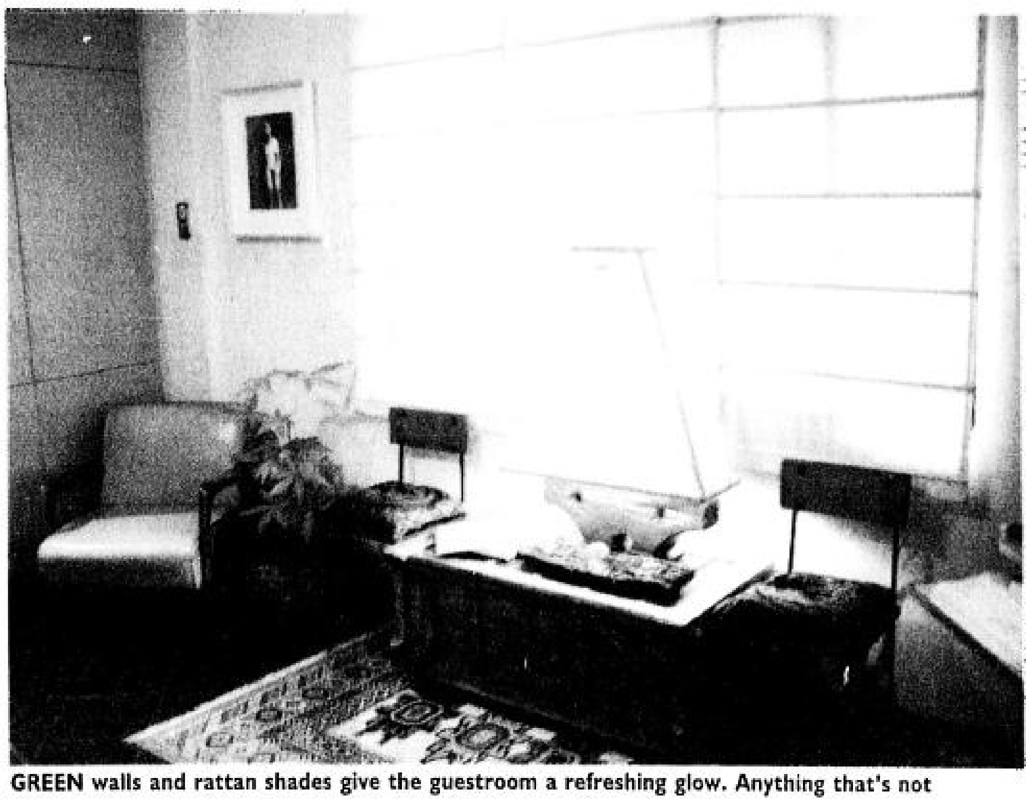
There is Dante Silverio, well-known businessman and sports aficionado, who is also president of the Visual Artists Guild (that include Romulo Galicano, Romulo Olazo, Agustin Goy, Romeo Ballada, Dante Castillo, Cee Cadid, and Andy Cubi). He will head his group in raising funds during the CI's anniversary celebration this year through "Portraitures for a Fee." People can have their portrait done by any of the artists mentioned for a fee which will be donated to the Garden Club.

There is Carlos Celdran of the Heritage Conservation Society and Sari Tapales, designer, who will lend their expertise in ensuring the environmental and historical aspects of the project are in place.

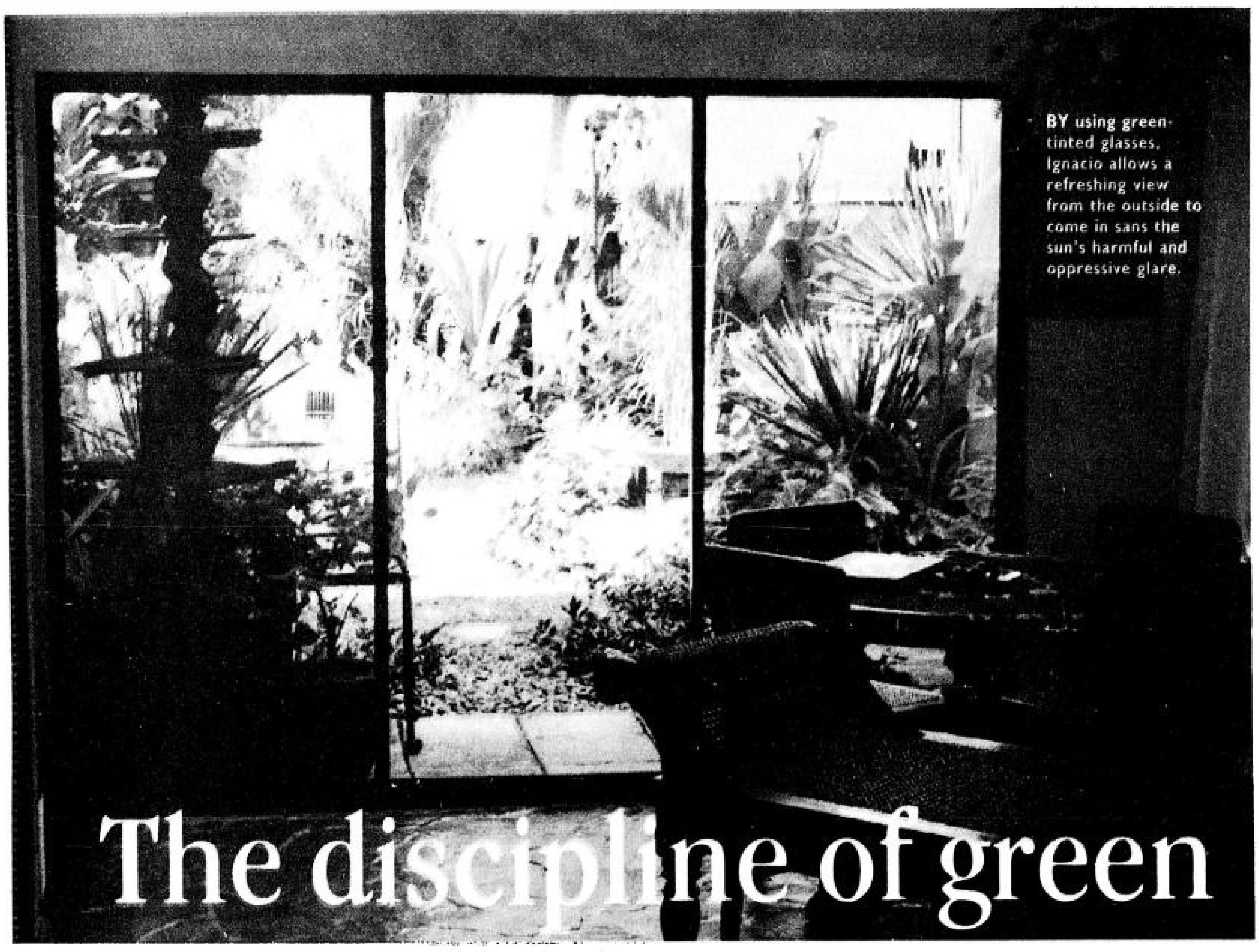
Club members must also be involved in such earthy things, even as they continue to plan the healing aspects of their gardens. A



CUSHIONED wicker sofa and chairs add to the tropical architecture. Three of the owner's works in watercolor hang by the walls.



GREEN walls and rattan shades give the guestroom a refreshing glow. Anything that's not synthetic reinforces the feeling.



BY using green-tinted glasses, Ignacio allows a refreshing view from the outside to come in sans the sun's harmful and oppressive glare.

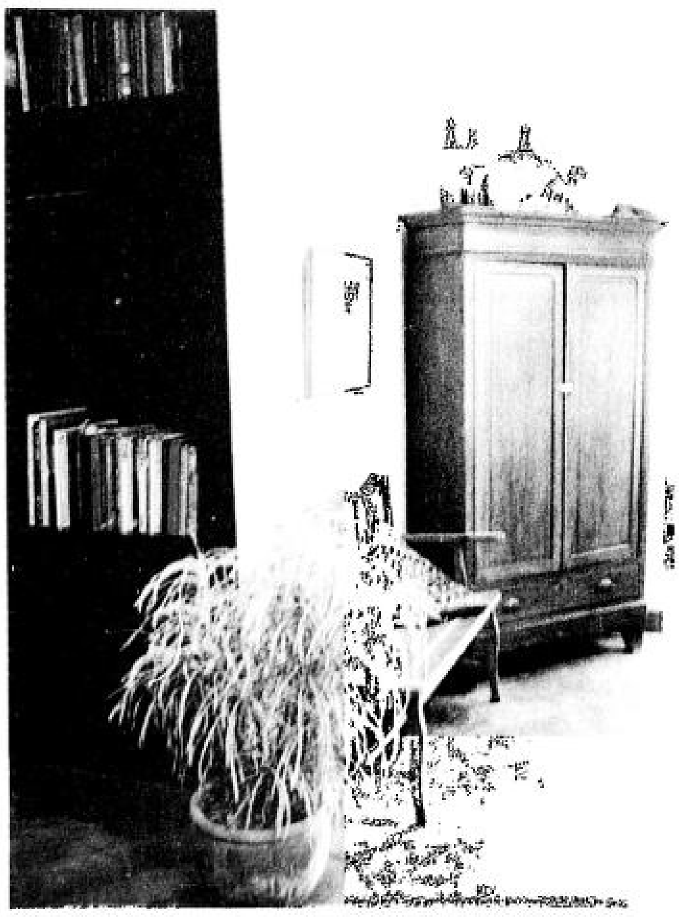
The discipline of green

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

ARCHITECT Joven Ignacio practices what he preaches. As an exponent of tropical design and green architecture, Ignacio's beliefs are reflected in his one-story house in Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Ignacio's house isn't made of bamboo and *cogon*, mind you. Rather, he resorts to several practical approaches to maximize space and allow the outside in without directly exposing the interior to the sun's cruel glare.

Glass panels, for instance, offer a view of the garden from the foyer and living room. Thanks to the skylight, the foyer is also bathed in natural light. What's so unusual about this setup?



INDOOR plant lends life to a corner.

The twist lies in Ignacio's use of green-tinted glass panels and a skylight made of polycarbonate sheets. Yes, the same bluish-green plastic material commonly used in overpasses to shield passersby from the elements.

The greenish tint imparts a refreshing glow that tones down the usually bright white walls. "Green and blue are stimulating colors," says Ignacio, a senior lecturer at the University of the Philippines' College of Architecture. "They tone down the glare once daylight hits an all-white surface."

Ignacio attributes his knowledge of colors and their corresponding effects to his artistic training. Several of his watercolor paintings compete for wall space with Araceli Dans' still-life oil pieces. His love for Filipino and Asian artworks is evident in a number of pieces featured in several shelves.

Beyond aesthetics

The effects of the see-through devices, by the way, go beyond aesthetics. Polycarbonate sheets, for instance, offer protection against the sun's harmful rays—something no ordinary sheet of tinted glass could ever match. "The space between the two plastic sheets thwarts solar radiation by allowing air in," he explains.

The foyer functions like a buffer providing a transition between outdoor and indoor spaces. This area, adds Ignacio, induces a relaxing atmosphere where people could imbibe sunlight and greenery without leaving the comforts of their home.

"I've always encouraged people to allot some space for a garden," he says, "since a view of the greens from the yard outside can give inner rooms an airy feel. Bringing plants indoors is also ideal."

Plants need not be expensive. Ignacio's mini garden, for instance, teems with water plants, *gumamela*, *bandera Española* and various greens endemic to the Philippines. In lieu of hard-to-care-for bermuda grass, hardy carabao grass blankets open spaces. A pond with a cascading fountain further refreshes the environment.

Continuity is also reflected in the clever use of dark *araal* tiles in the foyer and equally dark commercial tiles in the living room. Ignacio chose lighter varieties in the master's bedroom and guestroom.

Green architecture, of course, isn't limited to plants and open spaces. It's a holistic endeavor that involves not only established science but also puts to the test one's principles and common sense. Aside from good natural lighting, it also takes into consideration such factors as adequate ventilation, comfortable indoor temperature, energy efficiency and suitability of materials.

Practical

Indeed, the discipline could be as practical as installing enough eaves to temper the sun's effects to observing, say, the wind's movements for a year to maximize ventilation. Good ventilation, mind you, is further achieved not only through the use of big windows, but also through their proper sizing and positioning.

"The leeward (outlet) should be bigger than the windward (inlet) to promote the flow of air," Ignacio explains. How's that again? While the smaller window allow the air in, the bigger window works like a vacuum by sucking the air inside the house.

In his house's case, for example, windows by the kitchen are smaller than the ones by the side of the living room. The bigger windows work in tandem with air current that flows through the adjacent driveway.

Thus, an astute architect also studies environment and the likely impact of future developments on his client's house. Ignacio also actively espouses the protection of the environment through the use of recycled or eco-friendly materials and designs.

"One way of achieving this is through the adaptive reuse of old materials," he says.

One of his clients, for instance, has been able to construct a quaint Filipino-inspired home made primarily of *narra* from an old house in Laoag. The businessman who had acquired the lot was itching to tear the antique structure down to make way for a commercial building. Fortunately, Ignacio's client prevailed upon him to sell it to them.

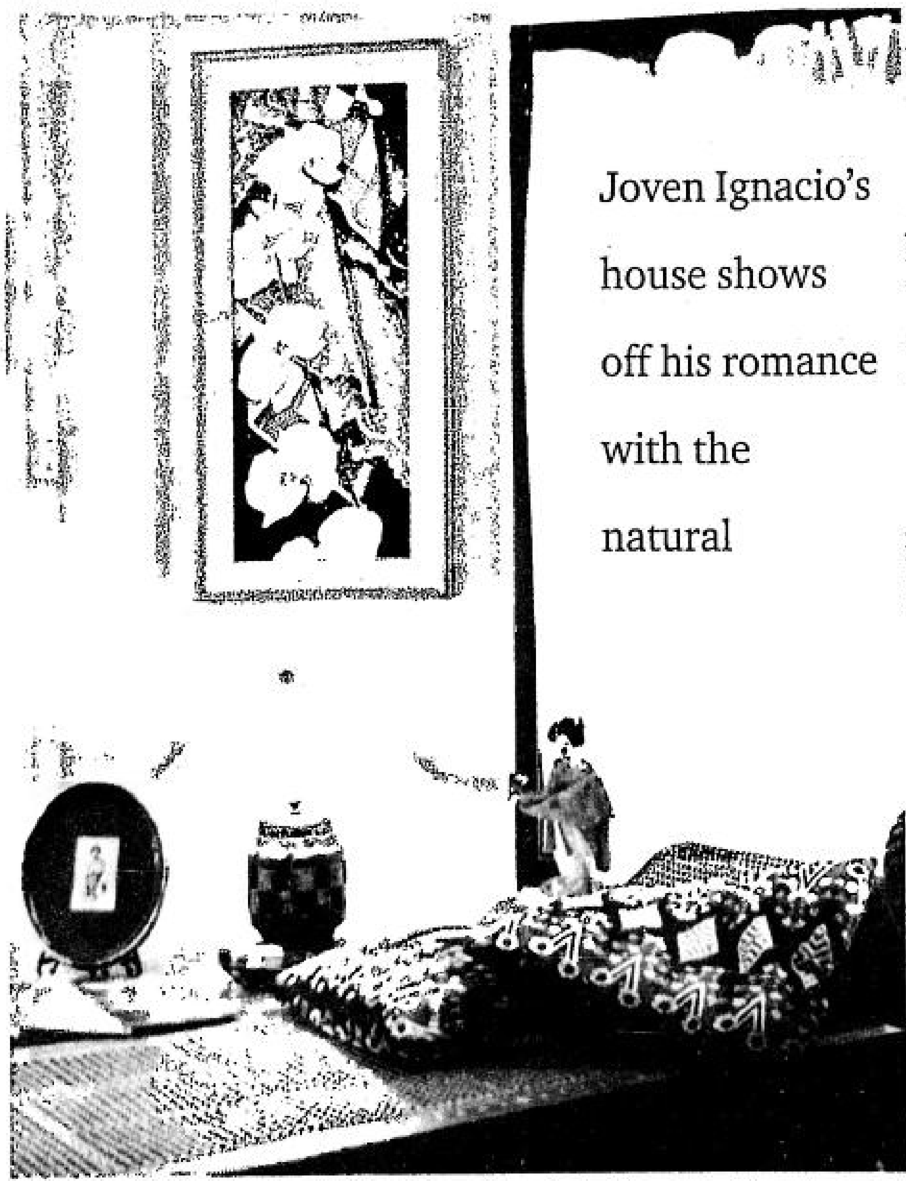
Ten or so colleagues, including Ignacio's former student, Raymond Sih, from the United Architects of the Philippines, share his beliefs. Together they have formed the Green Architecture Movement.

Sih, who graduated with honors, now works with Ignacio as his researcher. A product of his time, he has started to maximize the use of computers in simulating space and understanding nature's likely impact on a certain structure. Knowledge generated from this endeavor, in turn, will help architects come up with more energy-efficient and environmentally sound designs in the future.

"The challenge is to review the design process and try to find new solutions with engineers," says Ignacio. "Filipinos by nature are very creative. Given time, we wouldn't have to live in architectural monstrosities as we become more sensitive to the environment." Green architecture doesn't necessarily mean being stuck with the *bahay kubo*.

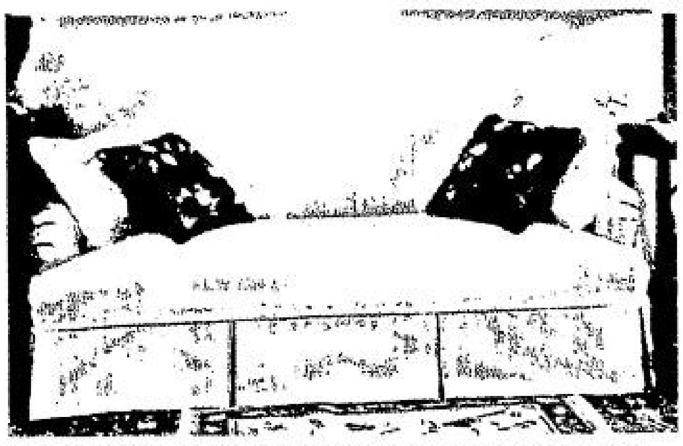
You can reach Joven Ignacio at jbrfi@edsamail.com.ph

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

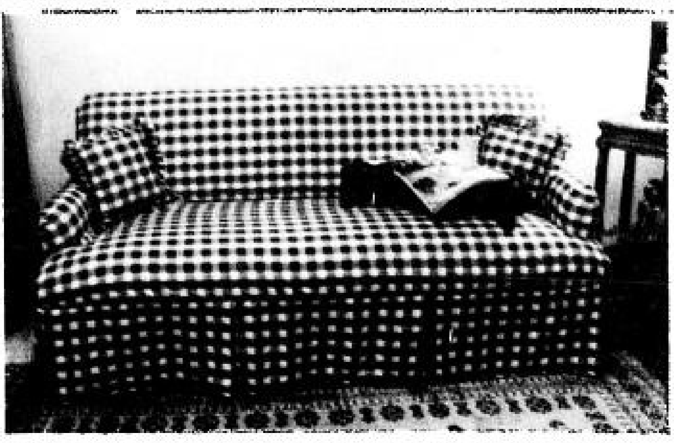


Joven Ignacio's house shows off his romance with the natural

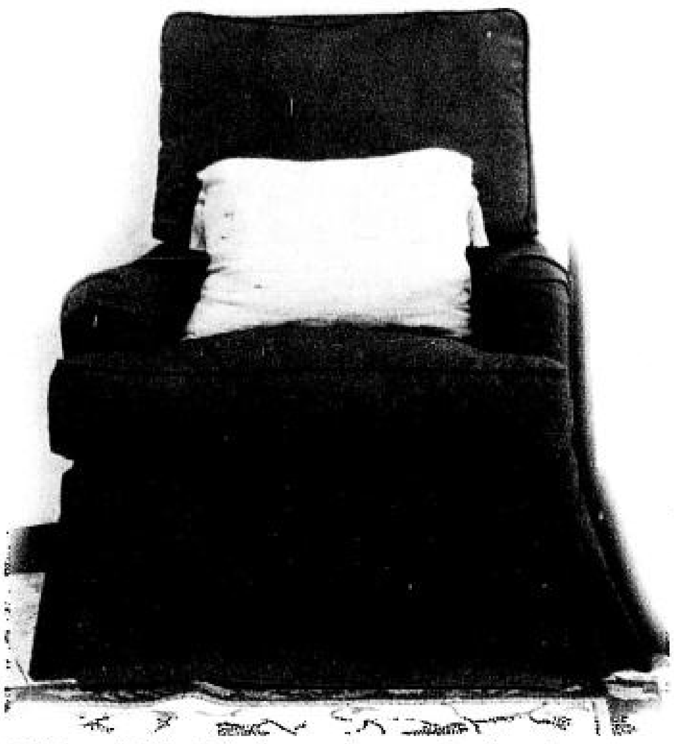
ASIAN AFFAIRS. An Araceli Dans painting, *sulihiya* daybed, Japanese doll, antique frame and *batik* pillows



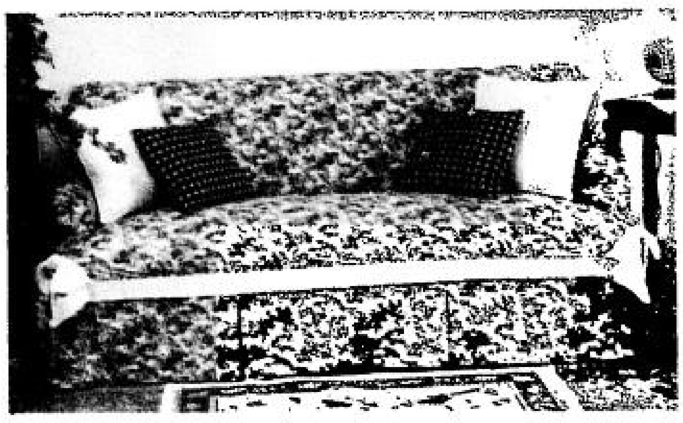
TRADITIONAL sofa in conservative striped upholstery can be dressed up with accent pillows. To preserve the clean look, slipcovers offer not only comfort but also protection.



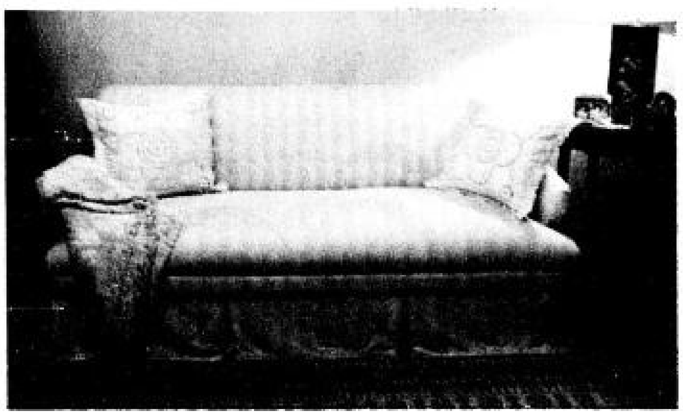
CHECKERED CAREER. The same sofa gets a new twist with the use of checkered cotton slipcover; pleated skirting gives it a crisp and refreshing look.



BLUE armchair in plain slipcover is appropriate in a den or boys' room because of its crisp tailored look. The cotton fabric creates a smooth effect while the piping defines the graceful shape of the high-back sofa.



COUNTRY BLUE. Another look is created with a blue and yellow slipcover, evoking an English country look. Throw pillows in yellow and blue checks add contrast to the floral background.



ORIENTAL daybed becomes more interesting with plump throw pillows covered in geometric bold prints, and plain white cushions.

PLUMP loose cushion two-seater sofa gets a different look with the calico print and pastel green slipcover.

Your slip is showing—and how!

WHAT clothes are to people, slipcovers are to furniture.

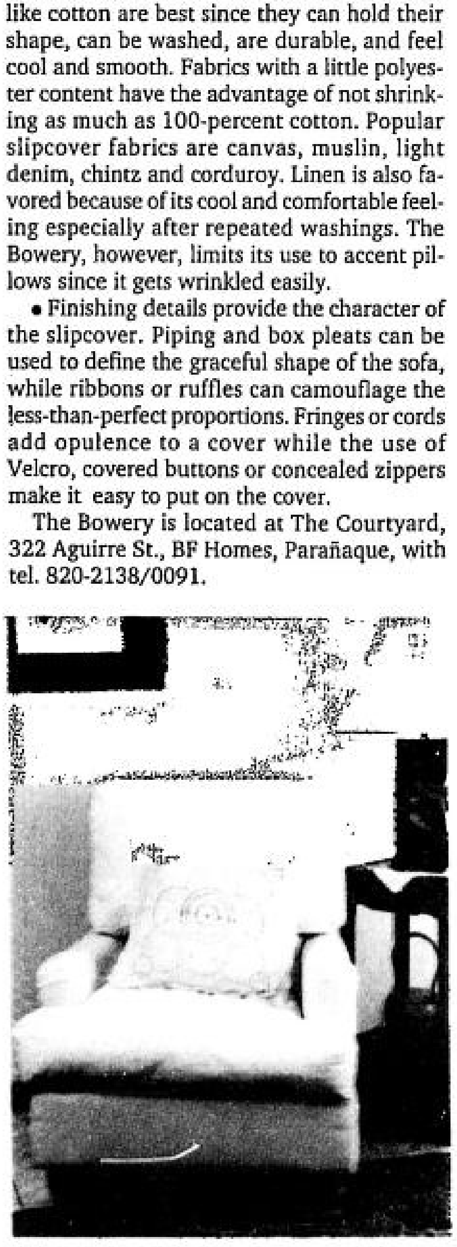
Slipcovers do not only protect good furniture, but also make it possible to give a worn-out chair or sofa a stylish new look without the expense of having it re-upholstered.

Tess Vargas of The Bowery said a new cover could make any piece of furniture more durable and stylish, allowing a look suitable to any season. Removable covers provide infinite possibilities for changing the look of a room, the way a change of wardrobe alters a personality. Moreover, slipcovers are affordable and practical while ensuring the long-term protection of good upholstered pieces.

The Bowery specializes in custom-made slipcovers. Its interior design staff helps clients decide details like fit, design, fabric texture, print etc. Vargas lists down some points to consider when using slipcovers:

- The fit of slip covers is a matter of personal taste. As a rule of thumb, the tighter the fit, the more the slipcover will imitate formal upholstery. The classic slipcover is not too tight and not too loose.
- The skirt treatment of the slipcover provides the look. A floral slipcover with ruffled skirt evokes a casual country look, while a tailored box pleated skirt speaks of understated sophistication.
- Dark colors and subdued prints can be used for a quiet look, while pastel floral patterns are suited for a romantic look. White always represents the quintessential summer look. It does not clash with any color or pattern and complements all furniture styles.
- Texture is very important. Natural fabrics like cotton are best since they can hold their shape, can be washed, are durable, and feel cool and smooth. Fabrics with a little polyester content have the advantage of not shrinking as much as 100-percent cotton. Popular slipcover fabrics are canvas, muslin, light denim, chintz and corduroy. Linen is also favored because of its cool and comfortable feeling especially after repeated washings. The Bowery, however, limits its use to accent pillows since it gets wrinkled easily.
- Finishing details provide the character of the slipcover. Piping and box pleats can be used to define the graceful shape of the sofa, while ribbons or ruffles can camouflage the less-than-perfect proportions. Fringes or cords add opulence to a cover while the use of Velcro, covered buttons or concealed zippers make it easy to put on the cover.

The Bowery is located at The Courtyard, 322 Aguirre St., BF Homes, Parañaque, with tel. 820-2138/0091.



SUMMER DAZE. The same armchair "wears" a quintessential summer slipcover, enhancing the cool muslin tab and bamboo curtain backdrop.

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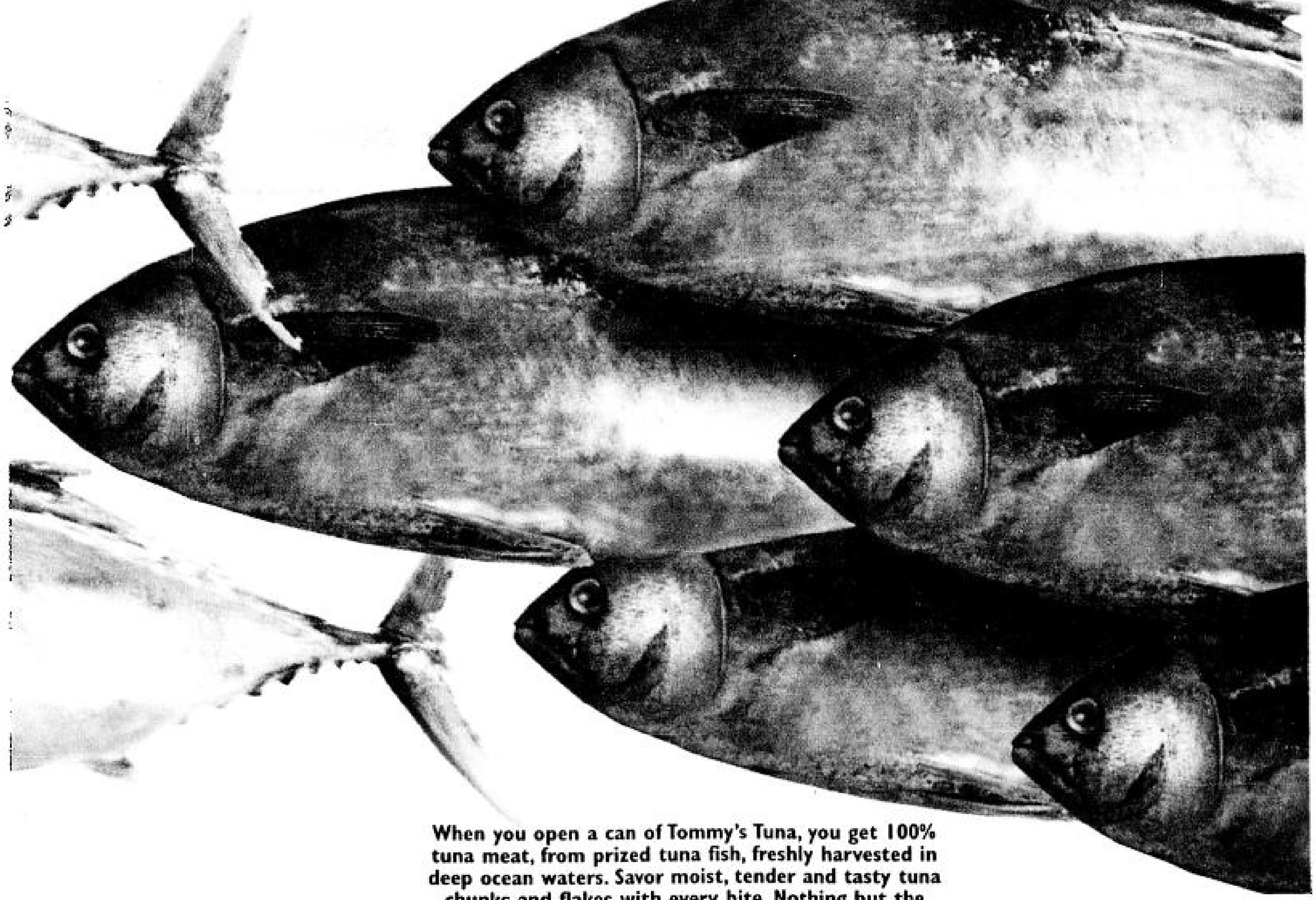

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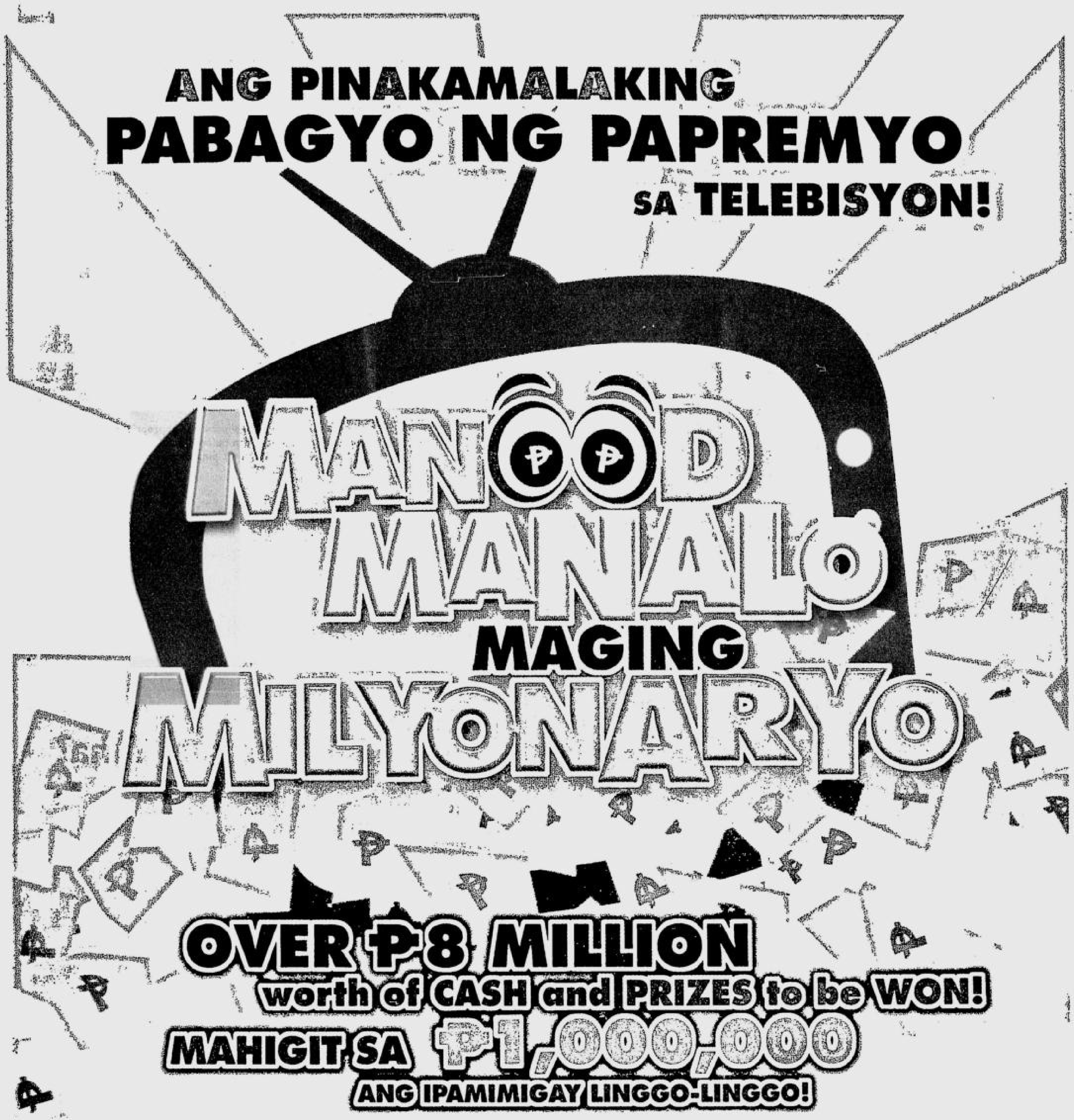

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One (1) winner of P 1,000,000 cash

Lahat ng entries na ipapadala ay siguradong kasali sa grand draw!

WEEKLY DRAWS

Guaranteed weekly winners from NCR, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao!
Bawat region, may mananalo ng:

- **One (1) P 100,000 cash**
- **Five (5) P 20,000 cash**
- **Ten (10) NOKIA 5210 cellphone units**

All cash prize winners will be announced every Sunday on S.O.P! Cellphone winners will be posted in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on the Friday following the draw!

6 WEEKLY DRAWS with 16 WINNERS per region!

Week No.	Dates to Watch	Deadline for Entries	Draw
1	June 11-16	June 17	June 23
2	June 18-23	June 24	June 30
3	June 25-30	July 4	July 7
4	July 2-7	July 8	July 14
5	July 9-14	July 15	July 21
6	July 16-21	July 22	July 28

HOW TO JOIN

1. Mula Martes hanggang Linggo, may ipapakitang anim na Unilever products sa Kool Ka Lang, Beh Bote Nga, Da Boy en Da Girl, Bubble Gang, Idol Ko Si Kap at Daddy Di Do Du.
2. Kapag lumabas ang promo icon, abangan ang ipapakitang Close-Up, Sunsilk Crystal, Creamsilk, Surf o Pond's product sa loob ng mga programa.
3. Sa bawat playing week, magkakaroon ng anim na combinations ng participating show at product. Madaling sumali! Isang program-product combination lang sa isang araw may entry ka na.

Example:

Week 1	Week 2
Kool Ka Lang/Creamsilk	Kool Ka Lang/Close-Up
Beh Bote Nga/Ponds	Beh Bote Nga/Sunsilk
Da Boy en Da Girl/Sunsilk	Da Boy En Da Girl/Surf
Bubble Gang/Close-Up	Bubble Gang/Rexona
Idol Ko Si Kap/Surf	Idol Ko Si Kap/Ponds
Daddy Di Do Du/Rexona	Daddy Di Do Du/Creamsilk

Kung sa week 1 ng promo, nakita mong sa KOOL KA LANG lumabas ang Creamsilk, ang kombinasyon na ito ang isulat mo para manalo!

5. Isulat sa isang papel ang pangalan, edad, address, telephone number, week number, signature at ang program-product combination.

Example:

Michael Sicat
34 years old
244 Better Living, Parañaque City
893-4461
Michael Sicat
Week 1
Kool Ka Lang/Creamsilk

6. Ilagay sa isang white envelope kasama ang isa sa mga sumusunod:

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of any size

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pouch size of Surf Powder
or one(1) Surf Bar wrapper

SUNSILK CRYSTAL
six(6) sachets or one(1)
bottle label

POND'S
Regular Wash, Anti-Bacterial Scrub,
Cleanser and Toner Wash or
Cooling and Oil Removing Scrub
two(2) sachets or one(1)empty tube or bottle

CREAMSILK
six(6) sachets or
one(1) bottle label

REXONA MINI-STICK
one(1) label

7. Isulat sa labas ng envelope ang "Manood Manalo, Maging Milyonaryo" at ang week number.
8. Ihulog sa mga drop boxes na available sa mga GMA stations (GMA Network Center EDSA, GMA Cebu, GMA Davao & GMA Iloilo) at lahat ng leading supermarkets and groceries nationwide.
9. Kapag nabunot ng higit sa isang beses ang pangalan ng parehong consumer, ang premyong mas malaki ang halaga ang makukuha niya.
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HOW TO WIN

1. All entries must have the correct program-product combination and the correct playing week.
2. All qualified weekly entries must be sent before the specified weekly deadline.

Tandaan: Siguraduhing tama ang kombinasyon at tama rin ang playing week na sinasalihan!

Grand draw will be held in S.O.P on July 28, 2002!
Promo runs from June 11 to July 21, 2002.

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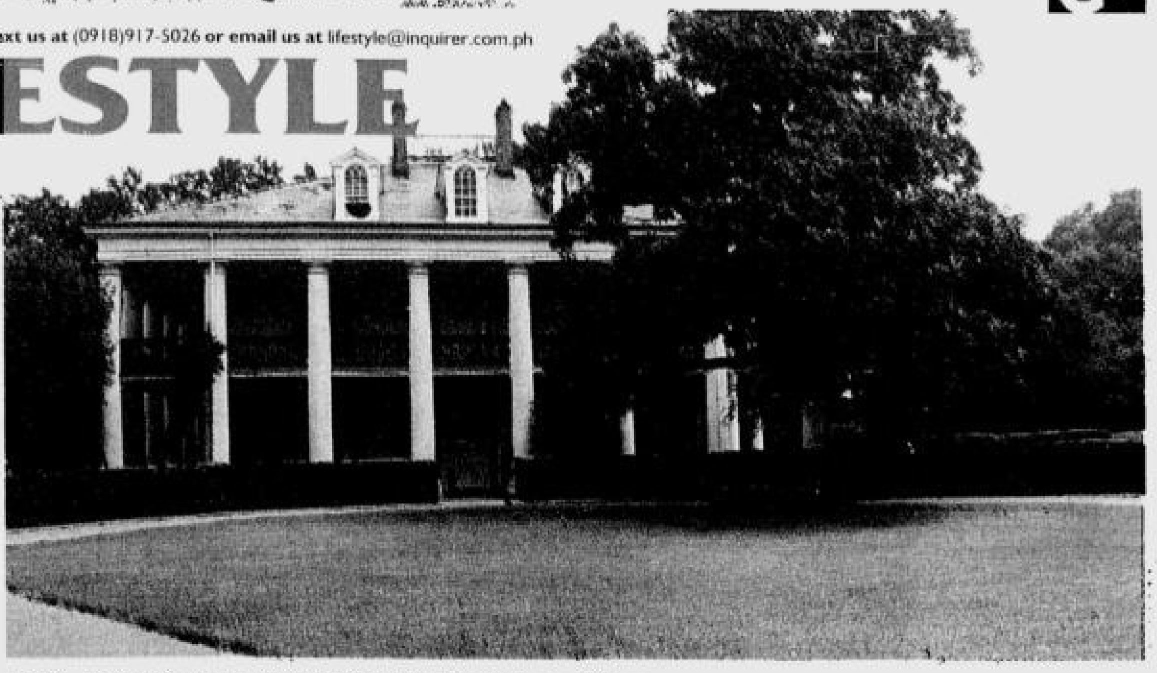
Desire and Louisiana

Text and photos by Cathy Babao Guballa
WITH PHOTOS FROM THE BOOK
"NEW ORLEANS—ELEGANCE AND DECADENCE"
BY RICHARD SEXTON AND RANDOLPH DELEHANTY

IT'S THE city that inspired literary giant Tennessee Williams to create "A Streetcar Named Desire." "Pretty Baby," the film that catapulted Brooke Shields into stardom, was filmed in one of many stately homes that line its Garden District. William Faulkner used to rent rooms behind the St. Louis Cathedral, the oldest church in the United States, in an area called the French Quarter. John Grisham's hero in the "Pelican Brief" went to school at prestigious Tulane University, in the same area where a few blocks down, the author Anne Rice makes her home on a tree-lined street in a white antebellum mansion that used to be an asylum.

Desire was retired back in 1948, but other streetcars continue to ply the elegant avenues of New Orleans—a city rich in culture and his

DESIRE/ p.G2



TARA—not quite. Oak Alley Plantation in Vacherie, Louisiana

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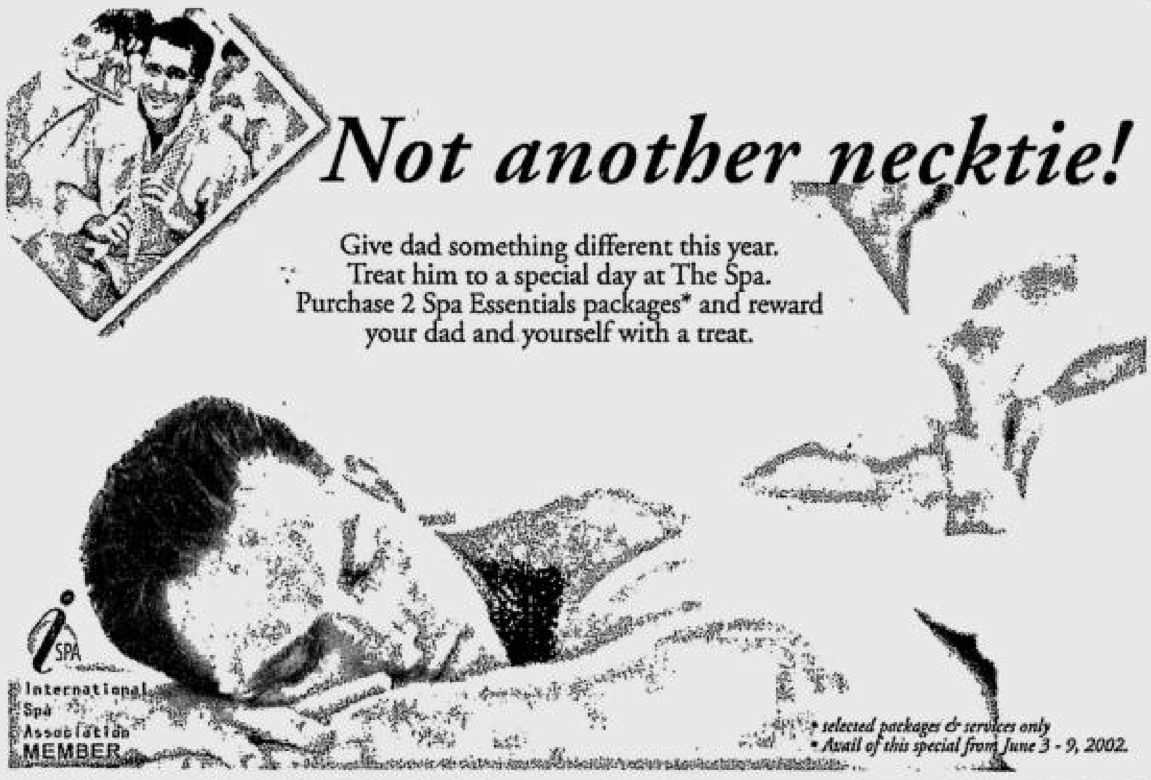

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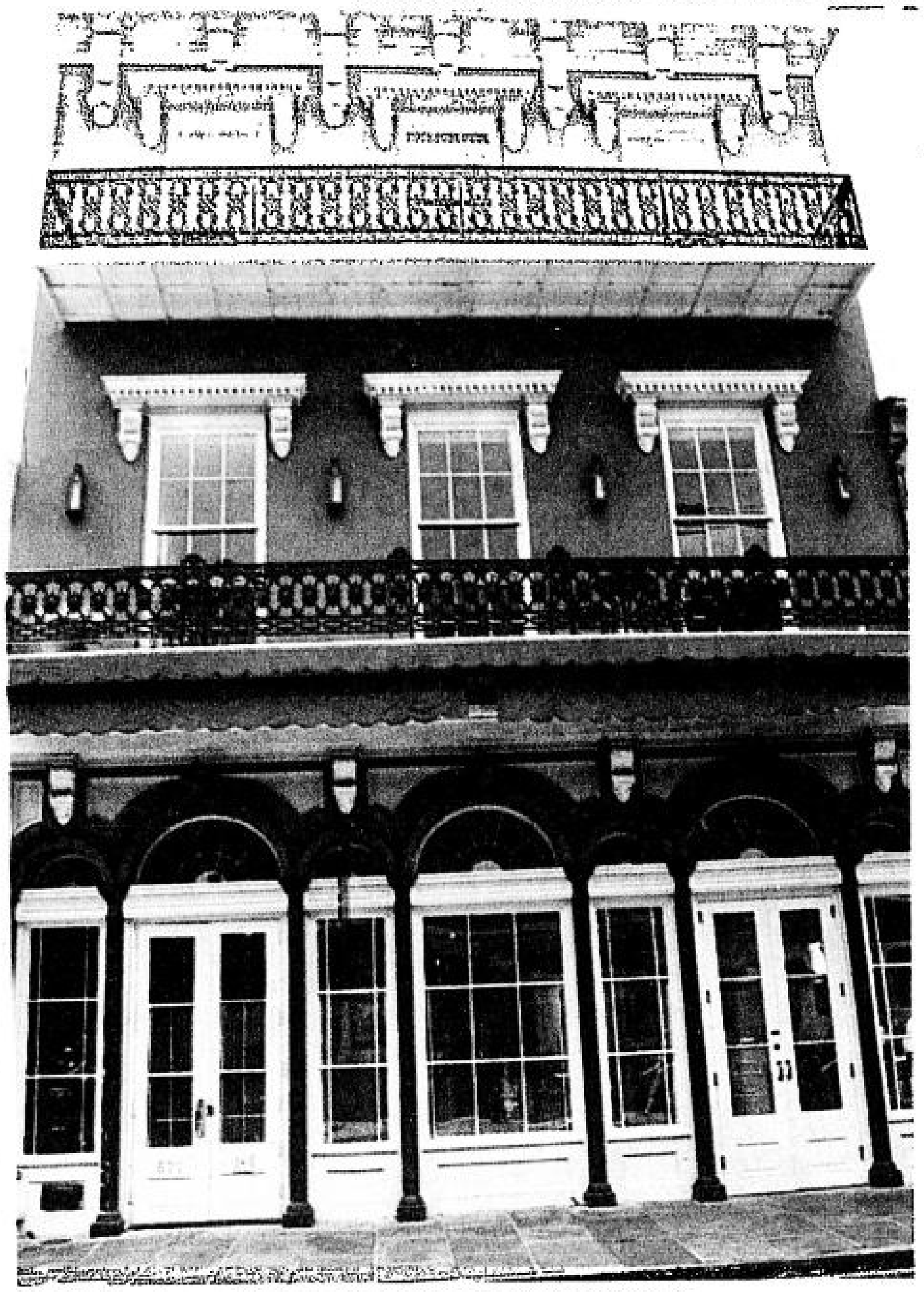
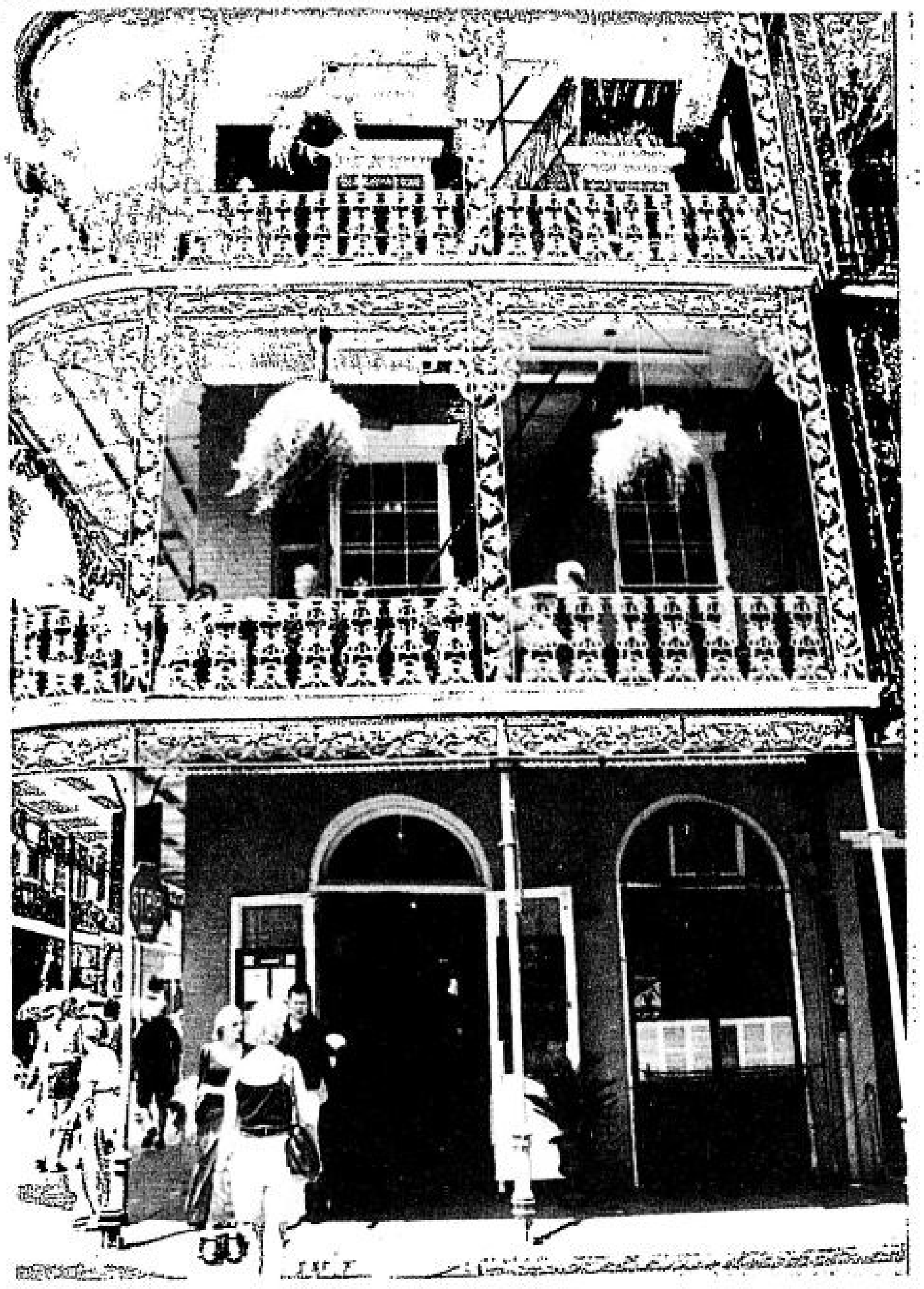


CREOLE townhouse with French windows and elaborate grillwork



FANCIFUL iron galleries adorn the three-story townhouse in the French Quarter.

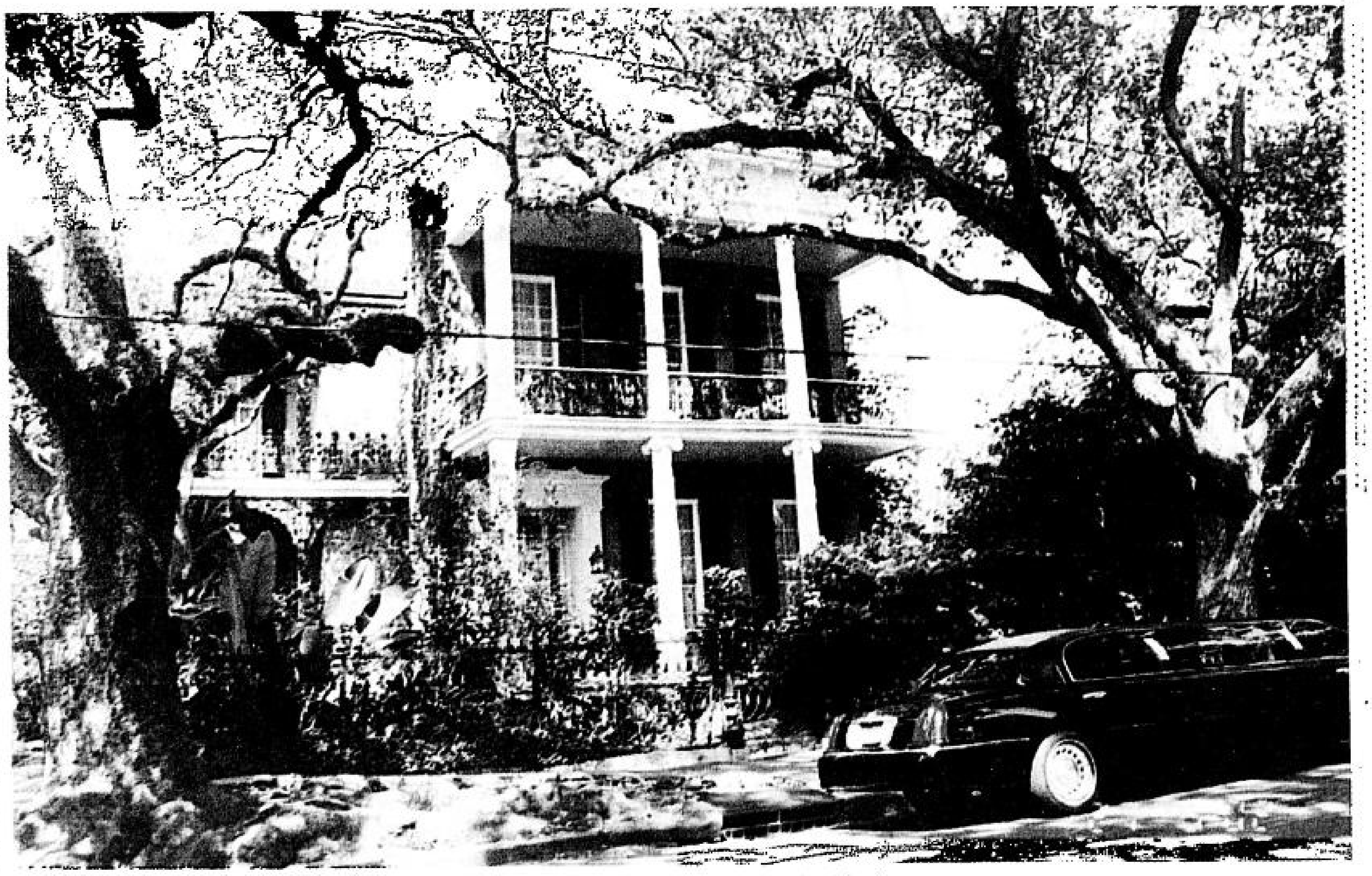
Desire and Louisiana

From page G1

tory. One sultry morning in May, journalists attending the Travel Industry of America Powwow in New Orleans were treated to a walking tour of the city's two most famous and historically significant areas—Vieux Carre or the French District, and the Garden District, where some of the most beautiful and historic mansions can be found. Though its architecture is rich in European influences, there is much about the city that is more Caribbean than North American.

The climate in New Orleans stands at an average of 70°F much of the year, and the mean average rainfall is at 6 inches. Yes, it floods sometimes in this city, and visiting journalists had a firsthand experience when a thunderstorm drenched the city for three hours one morning. However, there is a fantastic drainage system that draws the water from the city streets and brings it to Lake Ponchartrain. Great canals, set like the ribs of a fan, were excavated and pointed toward the Lake, north of the city. At the head of the canals, powerful screw pumps lift water from the channels and dump it into the lake. The system can pump up to 24 billion gallons of rainwater a day from the city into the lake! It is certainly worth emulating at here in Manila. The canals are covered over to reduce the growth of unwanted vegetation, to prevent the dumping of trash and to enhance safety for vehicles and children.

The climate certainly has a great influence on the architecture, gardens and lifestyle of New Orleans. "The louvered shutters, cast-iron galleries (porches), and the steep pitch of house roofs; the banana trees and shell ginger in gardens...all are local responses to the south Louisiana climate. The languid atmosphere here slows things down and gives New Orleanians time to elaborate their hospitable instincts," wrote Randolph Delehanty in the introduction to "New Orleans—Decadence and Elegance."



VAMPIRE CHRONICLES. Anne Rice antebellum mansion in the Garden District

New Orleans in the early 1700s was a colony of the French, thus, the first homes set up had their roots in Normandy and post-medieval French farmhouses. These homes, according to architect Frank Masson and his wife Anne, who lead the journalists on their walking tour, had steeply pitched roofs, few windows and no porches. "These homes had few doors, and windows and were terribly hot in the summer. They also rotted quickly because of the wet climate," Masson says.

More suited

These were then followed by a more environmentally-suited home that was brought in by the French West Indian Creoles who came to Louisiana. Raised cottages that followed the Spanish Caribbean style were completely surrounded by galleries (porches). "This type of structure lifted the building off the soggy, flood-prone soil. Raising the building also caught the cooling breeze," Masson explains. The ground floor under the principal floor, called the *rez-de-chaussée*, was used as a storage area or cool work space. Masson adds that eventually, Creole carpenters added a double-leaf French door in place of the smaller doors and windows for much better ventilation.

Like any other city, space is precious in New Orleans, and the town lots are long and narrow. Owing to this, the urban Creole cottage evolved soon after the raised cottages. A typical Creole cottage is square or rectangular in shape, made of wood and brick with stucco, and built out to the sidewalk. Along the front of the house are windows and French doors. Frank and Anne Masson live in a beautifully restored Creole cottage in the French Quarter, and journalists were privileged to take a peek at their lovely home. The typical Creole cottage, as Masson describes, consists of four square rooms arranged symmetrically with no internal hallways. French doors connect the principal rooms, which were used for receiving guests, dining and sleeping. In the two rear corners were cabinets, small rooms, one with a spiral staircase to the attic, and the other used for sleeping or storage and behind the houses were usually sheltered gardens or work areas. The kitchen was often in a separate building.

After the Seven Years War between England and France from 1753-1762, the French crown

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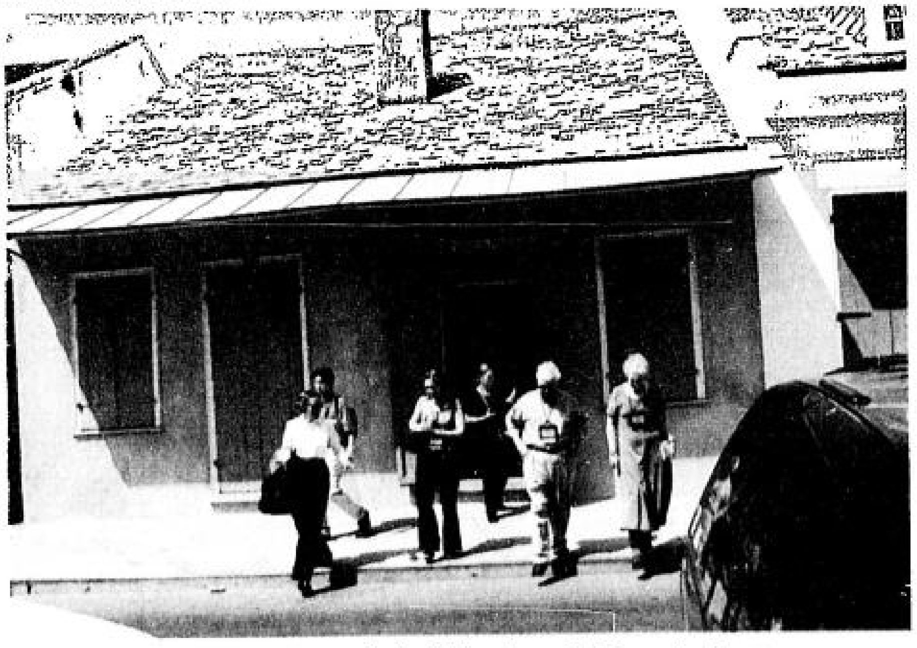
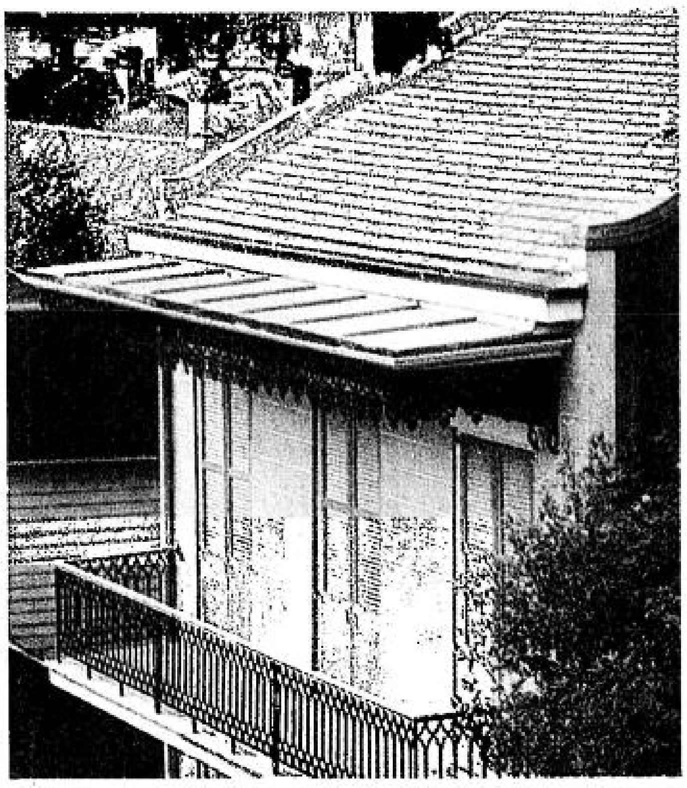
WROUGHT-IRON filligree adorn the Pontalba building.



CREOLE COTTAGE. Anne Masson leads visiting journalists from her home.

Desire and Louisiana



SIMPLE Creole townhouse in brick, stuccoed, scored, and painted to look like stone.

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decided to cede Louisiana to Spain. French culture however remained dominant in New Orleans, and the Spanish were more changed by the city than they were able to change it. After two great fires in 1788 and 1794, the Spanish imposed stricter building codes that mandated the use of fire-resistant roof tiles instead of inflammable shingles. In rebuilding the town, two and three-story masonry and stucco houses replaced the earlier one-story board-walled Creole cottages. Space continued to be expensive so shops appeared on the ground floor with living quarters above even in the premium residential district. Delehanty writes, "Continuous galleries or balconies with spare, elegant hand-wrought iron railings, were installed on street and courtyard walls. The two or three-story Creole townhouse similarly lacked interior hallways and rooms were multipurpose. Slave quarters at the back of the house were attached to, yet separate from, the dwellings." The classic-style L-shaped French Quarter townhouse had a patio or courtyard behind the house, where the househelp could do their tasks in private. At the same time, these courtyards also provided the owners a respite from the heat and

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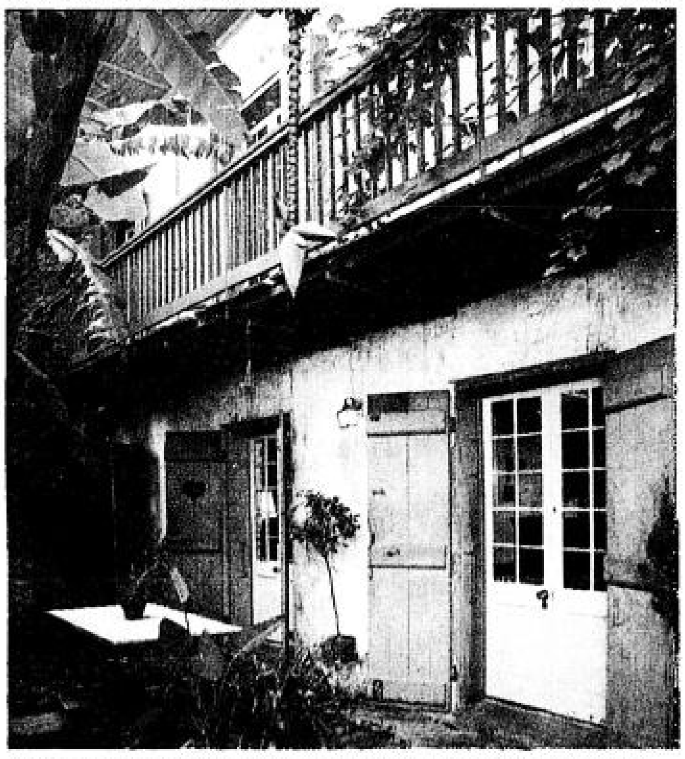

CONTEMPLATION courtyard of an L-shaped French Quarter townhouse. Bananas shade the brick-paved court.

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Desire and Louisiana

GUILLOTINE windows open onto a gallery garden.

From page G3

dusty streets. During the same period, to spruce up their courtyards, the Spanish imported oleander plants from Havana, banana trees and other showy tropical plants.

Expansion

In December 1803, William Claiborne and Gen. James Wilkinson took possession of Louisiana for the United States (in what is now known as the "Louisiana purchase"), doubling the country's size overnight. Soon, Anglo-Americans migrated to the newly-acquired city, which led to the city's expansion. A new working class resulted in a demand for simple, inexpensive houses. Masson explained the solution for this was to build "shotgun" houses that were one-story frame cottages consisting of three or four interconnecting rooms set in a row with no hallways. The term "shotgun" was used because the old-timers used to claim that one could shoot through the front door of these houses, and the pellets would exit in the back without hitting anything.

The boom also resulted in a lot of wealth, and Anglo-American businessmen, mostly bankers and merchants, built large, free-standing houses with spacious gardens away from the bustling city. The area that they chose to settle in was called Garden District, where the houses reflected the Greek Revival style. The palatial houses had huge rose-filled gardens, and its rooms were filled with very expensive furnishings. Majority of the homes here had monumental white columns that eventually epitomized the grand old American south.

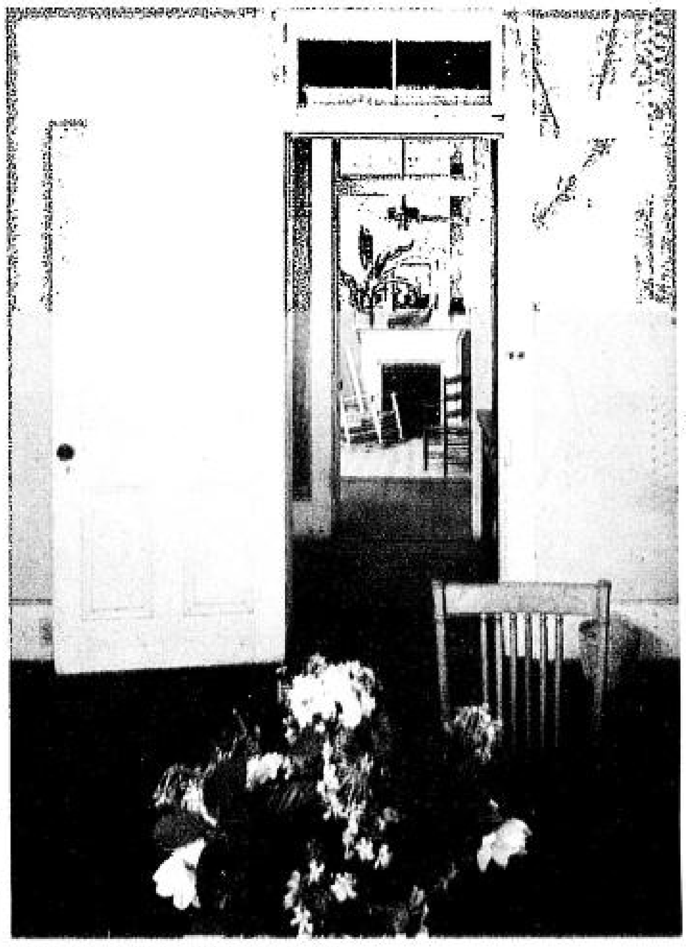
An hour away from New Orleans brings another view of the great architecture that has been popularized in films such as "Gone with the Wind." Crossing the bayou and the swamps of Louisiana along the mighty Mississippi River, one will find a few of the old plantations that date back to the 1800s and give the visitor a glimpse of elegant, languid yet oppressed life before the Civil War. Oak Alley, one of the few remaining plantations, is grand and magical. Stepping onto its grounds is like being transported back in time, and as you climb the staircase of the mansion, you half expect Rhett Butler to meet you at the top.

CREOLE COTTAGE. Louvered shutters in bright pink. Yellow and green inspired by the house colors of Oaxaca, Mexico

New Orleans truly mesmerizes the visitor with her charm and elegance, and one leaves the city forever changed by its beauty. Lafcadio Hearn, a journalist in the late 1800s, described "The Glamour of New Orleans" so perfectly when he said "...I offer thee an eternal summer, and a sky divinely blue; sweet breezes and sweet perfumes, bright fruits, and flowers fairer than the rainbow. Rest with me. For if thou leaves me, though must forever remember me with regret." Yes, you may leave your heart in San Francisco, but New Orleans leaves an indelible mark on your soul and you are forever changed by it.

Northwest Airlines flies daily to New Orleans from Manila via Detroit.

Email the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph.



INTERIORS of a Creole cottage

SHOTGUN cottages were popular among the working class.

WHITE painted dormers of a French Quarter house

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